

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

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No. 753.—VOL. XV.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1869.

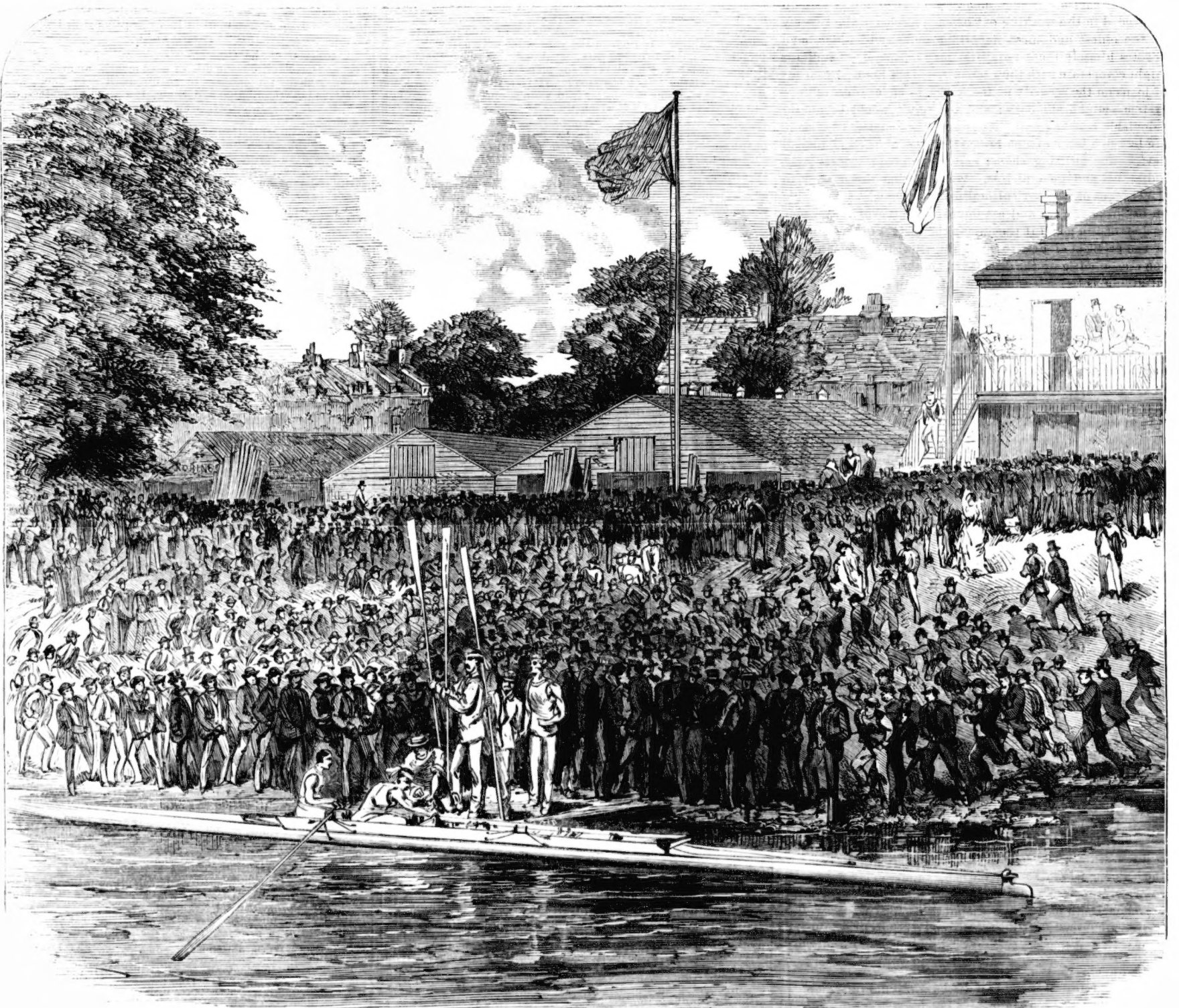
PRICE 3D.—STAMPED 4D.

SCIENTIFIC AIDS IN AGRICULTURE.

NEARLY three years ago—that is, on Sept. 15, 1866—we penned the following sentences:—"To fit grain for housing, after it is cut, it is necessary that it should be exposed for a time to the action of a warm, dry atmosphere; and when such a warm, dry atmosphere is denied naturally, could it not be provided artificially? In other words, might not drying-sheds, sufficiently capacious, and through which a current of hot air could be sent at pleasure, form a part of every well-planned and well-constructed farmstead? It is not for us to go into the detailed arrangements of such a scheme. We submit the idea to those whose business it is to work out such problems, convinced as we are that our notion is capable of being developed into practical shape. Of course, there are difficulties to be overcome; we see several at a glance—such, for instance, as how to construct apparatus on a scale adequate to meet the emergencies of a large farm. But 'where there is a will, there is a way.' Let the thing be tried, and we doubt not a

means of accomplishing it will be devised. Kiln-drying is already practised in various parts of Europe; and, though the appliances in use are rude and clumsy, they are better than none. Nature's agents, sun and air, are no doubt the best; but these are not always available, as this season proves. The grain might perhaps be somewhat deteriorated in quality by artificial drying; but certainly not more so than by being left soaking, sprouting, and rotting in the fields." The year 1866, as agricultural readers will remember, was wet, cold, and unfavourable for harvest operations, a condition of things that is of constant recurrence in our variable climate; and we rejoice to find that the crude suggestion we then threw out has been acted upon, and that the application of a hot-blast to corn-drying bids fair to be reduced to both a practical and practicable shape. Mr. Gibbs's invention, of which a full description will be found in another column, ought, if generally adopted, to make the British farmer independent of the weather, so far as the drying of his corn crops is concerned; and, inasmuch as a large

saving in the quantity as well as in the quality of the produce must result, Mr. Gibbs will be a great benefactor to the general community, besides furnishing a means of averting serious loss from many an English, Scotch, and Irish homestead. It is devoutly to be hoped that the natural slowness of the agricultural mind, and the disinclination of British farmers to adopt novel modes of procedure, will not interfere to hinder the general introduction of a most valuable and greatly-needed invention. The expense of using Mr. Gibbs's apparatus, it seems, is comparatively trifling; and as it will only require to be employed in untoward seasons, and under certain unfavourable states of the weather, the cost, as a rule, will amount to a positively insignificant sum, whilst the security to the crops will be immense. To one point especially we would desire to draw attention, and that is, the non-injury to the meal and germinating properties of the grain. Had the hotblast deteriorated the grain in either of these respects, a good reason would have existed for caution in applying it



THE INTER-UNIVERSITY BOAT-RACE: THE HARVARD CREW GOING OUT FOR A SPIN.



to the drying of the sheaves; but as no injury results from its use, and the benefits it confers are so obvious, we trust farmers universally will at once set about making the necessary arrangements for applying an invention which will not only put money in their pockets, but relieve their minds of a source of intense anxiety, while it will ensure to the community at large a more plentiful and better supply of the staff of life.

While on the subject of agriculture, we may refer to two other matters which seem to us of the very greatest importance. The first of these is the propriety of devising means for storing up the superfluous rainfall of winter and spring to meet the deficiency of moisture that is generally felt in summer. At one period of the year the farmer is plagued with too much water, while at another he is straitened by having too little; his fields are liable to be drowned in winter, and his cattle often perish of thirst and his crops are stunted from lack of moisture in summer. Now, could not the superfluity of one season be made to minister to the necessities of another? Could not the superabundant rainfall of winter and early spring be stored up so as to be available for irrigation and otherwise in summer and early autumn? Thorough draining, while it frees the soil of superfluous moisture in the rainy season, has had the effect of leaving no means of mitigating a period of drought; the water that descends from the clouds to refresh the face of the earth passes off in the drains almost as fast as it falls—it is carried into our rivers and thence into the ocean. This is no doubt a good at certain times; but it produces inconveniences at others. And it seems to us that means might be devised whereby, without interfering with the advantages of thorough drainage, farmers might still have the benefit of the rainfall. Reservoirs might be constructed on each farm—there are on almost all holdings portions of land that are of little value for other purposes, but are well adapted to act as store-ponds—in which the water drained off the land might be collected and used for irrigation or otherwise, as occasion required. These reservoirs need not be of a costly nature: a little digging out of earth to improve a natural hollow, a little puddling-in of clay as a bottom and side lining, and diverting of drainage outfalls, are all that would be required. No doubt some intelligence, some ingenuity, some enterprise, and some capital—though not very much of either—would be needed in the working out of such a scheme; but surely in the oldest and most important industry to which man devotes himself these requisites may be found. Landlords might co-operate with their tenants, and the State—by means of loans on the security of the works, as under the drainage system—might aid both; and the result would be an incalculable benefit to all. At present the bounties of Nature are lost to a large extent because of the absence of human devices for utilising them; and the consequence is great individual and general loss. We commend this matter to the Gibbes of the agricultural world—men who are capable of bringing science and art to bear on the every-day occupations of life; and if they apply themselves to the solution of the problem of how to make the superfluous moisture of one season mitigate the drought of another, there need be no misgiving as to their success in this, as in the case of corn-drying by artificial heat.

The other point to which we would venture to call attention is that of over-seeding, a matter about which Mr. Mechi, of Tiptree Farm, has been so earnest for years past in endeavouring to enlighten his brother farmers. Mr. Mechi's latest observations and conclusions are thus embodied in a letter published by him this week, in which he says:—"Thin sowing has enabled me to come to a conclusion as to the cause of the root falling or stem-rotting of wheat, and consequently blighted ears, which will probably inflict a loss on the country of at least a million quarters of wheat and other grain. Where I sowed one peck of wheat per acre every stem is hard, glassy, and erect, the heads and kernels perfect, while on the very next stretches on each side, within twelve inches of the thin sown, the four pecks per acre of wheat is partially root fallen, or stem rotten, and the grain inferior. The same remark applies in degree to the two pecks per acre of wheat as compared with the four pecks adjoining, the former bearing a much stiffer glassy stubble than the other. The cause is obvious. Among the thin sown the sun and air had free access to the soil during the rainy season, and thus dried it; while in the thickly sown and denser foliage there was insufficient aeration and evaporation." If it be true, as Mr. Mechi contends, that thin sowing conduces to the production of heavier crops—heavier both in point of quantity and quality—it is obvious that no greater mistake can be committed than the very common one of over-seeding. By adopting Mr. Mechi's advice, farmers would reap a double advantage—they would save half their seed, and add a third, if not a half, to their return. Surely, these are benefits well worth securing; and the principle, be it observed, is applicable to operations on a small as well as on a large scale. The cottage and amateur gardener commits the same mistake as the ordinary farmer: all over seed, inferior crops are the consequence, and thus waste is incurred at both ends. We therefore commend Mr. Mechi's advice to farmer, cottager, and amateur, and say, "Save your seed and thereby increase your produce."

THE INTERNATIONAL BOAT-RACE.

As the time draws near when the race between the Harvard and Oxford crews is to come off, the interest in the form of both crews, but especially in that of the American, seems to grow deeper. One

cause of this is the surprising progress the "Yanks," as the native of Putney familiarly calls the Harvard men, have made in the English style of rowing. They have applied themselves strenuously to the cultivation of our style, and with good success, and to the great delight of the public of the towing-path, among whom there is a fine generous feeling that bears towards a positive desire that the Americans should win. This gives great scope to the "village politician" in blue jacket and bare neck; and we have heard one waterman, whose interest in politics is evidently not superficial, somehow connect this great international race with the Alabama claims, and assert that if the victory should be in favour of the H. B. C. boat, the Americans would be so pleased, or, in the words of our friend, "their national vanity would be so tickled like," that they would be in a better mood for dealing with a controversy which has hitherto baffled diplomats.

One day's practice-work is very much like another's, being varied mainly by time, tide, weather, and so forth. The Harvard men have had several new boats built for them since their arrival in this country—one by Salter, another by Clasper, a third by Jewitt, and a fourth by the American builder Elliott—with all of which they seem well pleased. The latest details reports to hand are of Wednesday's work, on which day the rival crews were out on the river in the morning, the Oxford men embarking a little before eleven o'clock and rowing down to Putney Bridge, where they turned and had a short spin up, with the tide, as far as Simmonds' boatyard, and then came ashore and sent their boat up to Maynard's yard at Barnes, they themselves following in Mr. Willan's screw steam-yacht Iris. The Harvard men embarked shortly before the Oxonians. They rowed down to the Cedars, below Putney Bridge, and, turning round, went up to the Aqueduct, whence they started and rowed hard with the flood tide to Barnes railway bridge. Here they stopped, and, getting out of their boat, returned to Putney in a private steamer, their two spare men rowing the boat back to Putney. The Oxford crew embarked in their boat at Barnes about twelve o'clock, and rowed steadily up above the Ship at Mortlake, when they turned and rowed down at full speed on the ebb tide to Putney, coached by Mr. G. Morrison. They showed much improvement and finished strong and well. In the afternoon the Harvard crew went out in their Clasper boat, and rowed up to the Crab Tree, where they turned and came down to the Bishop's Creek; they then returned up the river to the Crab Tree, and this performance they repeated. They then came ashore and went out in their Salter boat, rowing up to Craven Cottage in her, and then down to Wandsworth and back. The Oxonians are still the favourites in betting circles.

At last some definite intimation has been received with respect to the manner in which the course is to be kept on Friday, the 27th inst. An application was made to the Thames Conservancy on the subject, and on Wednesday Mr. Lord, the superintendent, was at Putney, and intimated to the respective crews that on the day of the race no river-steamer would be allowed to pass Putney Aqueduct from the time of the boats starting to the finish of the race. The only steamer accompanying the boats throughout the course will be that in which the referee, umpires, and other necessary officials are accommodated. A daily contemporary remarks:—"One or two subjects of complaint which have come under our notice we think deserve public mention. In the first place, the conduct of the persons who visit the towing-path on horseback is becoming quite serious. On Wednesday there were about a dozen horses, ridden by ladies and gentlemen, who pranced about in the most reckless manner, several persons on foot narrowly escaping injury. If such is the case when only a few hundred people are on the towing-path, what will be the consequences if these persons are allowed to practise their horsemanship at Putney on the day of the race? It is really to be hoped the authorities will take the matter into serious consideration at once, in order that the evil, of which there is at present so much just complaint, may be dealt with and remedied. Then, again, we think the American and Oxford crews have great cause to complain of the mobbing—we can use no more appropriate word—to which they are daily subject upon going out or returning from practice. No sooner does one or other of the crews appear at their boat-house than they are immediately surrounded by a too eager public, who at times altogether impede for some minutes their progress to the waterside. We can well account for the public interest attaching to an international race of this kind, but on behalf of both crews we protest against the admiration of their respective friends being carried to the extreme lengths it has been during the past few days. In conclusion, we have to refer to the last, but by no means least, complaint which has reached our ear. We are told that the good people who are fortunate enough to occupy houses at Putney, Barnes, and Mortlake which command a view of the course are beginning to make the most exorbitant demands for a window or room for a short time on the day of the race."

DEATHS OF GENERALS HARRIS AND FAUNCE, OF THE INDIAN ARMY.—The death is announced, by telegram, of Major-General Philip Harris, commanding the Allahabad division, of cholera, at Allahabad, on the 31st ult. Previous to the present year General Harris commanded the Sirhind division. The deceased officer was a cadet in 1824. He was afterwards posted to the 70th Bengal Native Infantry. He served in the Gwalior campaign as Aide-de-Camp to Sir John Littler, and was present at the battle of Maharajpore, Dec. 29, 1843. He obtained the bronze star and the brevet of Major for Maharajpore. The deceased makes the second general officer the Indian army has lost lately; the other officer being Major-General R. N. Faunce, Madras army, who commanded the Pegu division, Burmah, and who was lost in the steamer Cheduba, which foundered in a cyclone on her passage to Burmah, about May 17. It is a singular fatality to record that a few days later (May 28), the widow of Major-General Faunce died at sea, on board the Peninsular and Oriental steamer Ripon, the day after leaving Malta; and on the 8th ult. the youngest daughter of General and Mrs. Faunce, the wife of Captain Day, 66th Regiment, died at Tellicherry, aged twenty-three.

SEWAGE IRRIGATION AT BANBURY.—Banbury contains about 11,000 inhabitants. The sewage formerly polluted the Cherwell, but certain parties complained of the nuisance, and a decree of the Vice-Chancellor ordered its discontinuance. The board of health subsequently rented a farm of 137 acres, about a mile from the town, on the Northampton side of the Cherwell, over which they have since continued to pump the liquid, the quantity being 300,000 gallons in the twenty-four hours. The solid matter is detained in tanks, mixed with the sweepings of the streets, and with ashes, and disposed of to canal boatmen, who sell it to the farmers. The rent of the farm is £416 10s. Thirty-five acres were laid down with Italian ryegrass, which is now in its third year. During 1888 the sales of produce realised upwards of £1300. Up to the present time for this year the amount received has been £912 15s. 10d. This sum includes successive cuttings of ryegrass, mowing-grass, latermath, and cabbages. There is now growing on this sewage farm a crop of mangolds (sixteen acres) the like of which is rarely to be met with. A great many of the roots are twenty-four inches in circumference, and it is impossible to guess what size they will attain before the end of the season. The field grew oats last year, after having been broken up by a steam-cultivator in the autumn, was thoroughly sewaged during the winter, and the seed sown early in March. The wire-worm thinned some of the rows, but the gaps were filled up by judicious transplanting in showery weather. The crop as a whole now looks magnificent, and excites the astonishment of agriculturists in the neighbourhood. Rather more than an acre of cabbages were planted last autumn. These, including sprouts, have been sold for £20. It has been found, however, that after the plants have attained a certain size applications of sewage do them more harm than good. The soil is stiff and heavy. Possibly different results may be perceptible with regard to this and other similar crops on lighter land. Onions thrive under sewage if the liquid is not allowed to settle in pools. It has been found on this farm that carrots are tender roots and that fresh sewage causes them to rot. Parsnips, on the contrary, show no such tendency. The whole of the farm has been irrigated during the last year, with the exception of twelve acres, which have not yet been levelled for the purpose. The natural or mowing grass is much improved in quality by irrigation, and the quantity is more than double that which grows in the adjoining fields. As to the ryegrass, although the crops have been excellent, it must be confessed that the plants show certain signs of feebleness in the stem and leaf, thereby indicating that the ground ought to be broken up every third year. The irrigation scheme at Banbury has, so far, proved a success. The liquid, after passing over the land, enters the Cherwell some distance below the town. No nuisance is complained of, and fish may be seen sporting in the river close to the outfall of the effluent water from the farm. It is calculated that the receipts from the farm this year will exceed those of last year.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The Emperor has been suffering from an attack of rheumatic gout, which has prevented his visiting the camp at Châlons, as he had intended. The Prince Imperial has gone in his stead. His Majesty is reported to be much better. He was able to preside at the council of Ministers last Saturday, and to write several letters on Sunday, so that his speedy restoration to health may be looked for.

The following Imperial decree, countersigned by all the Ministers, was published on Sunday:—"Wishing to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Napoleon I. by an act which responds to our feelings, we decree a full and complete amnesty for all political crimes and misdemeanours, offences against the press laws, the laws on public meetings and coalition of working men, as well as other political offences." Another Imperial decree grants an amnesty to all soldiers and sailors undergoing sentence for desertion. Numerous decorations have, it is stated, been conferred upon members of the Legislative Body belonging to the Third Party. The fêtes in celebration of the centenary of the first Napoleon's birthday are said to have gone off in the most satisfactory manner everywhere throughout France. The Imperial amnesty, too, has been hailed with the popular approval, and evoked expressions of gratitude even from the organs of extreme Democratic opinions, who regard it as an effacement of the policy of the past and a pledge with respect to the future. In the midst of the general chorus of jubilation on the part of the press, there seems to be but one voice out of tune, and that is the *Pays*, which describes the amnesty as "an act of feebleness." As soon as the magnanimous intentions of the Emperor were proclaimed, the prisons were at once cleared of such of their inmates as had received the Imperial pardon.

The funeral of Marshal Niel took place, with all the usual honours, on Tuesday. The remains of the gallant old soldier will not, however, finally rest in the Hôtel des Invalides, as the Emperor desired, but in the family vault at Muret, in the Haute Garonne.

It is reported that Marshal M'Mahon is to be appointed to the Ministry of War in France. Another account, however, says that the post will be filled by General Lebœuf.

SPAIN.

The Carlist rising appears to have nearly collapsed, though arrests continue to be made. The Government, it is said, has taken effective measures to prevent any further assembling of Carlist bands in La Mancha.

ITALY.

Some statistics respecting the number of deaths from violence in Italy have just been issued by the Government. In 1867, 2626 homicides were committed, or 10·84 for every 100,000 inhabitants. In Spain the proportion was 8·24 for the same number of inhabitants; Sweden, 2·02; Great Britain, 1·95; and Belgium, 0·16. The greatest number of homicides occurred in Southern Italy, there being 19·84 for every 100,000 inhabitants; while in Northern Italy the average was 3·70 for every 100,000 inhabitants. Compared with 1866, there was a decrease in 1867 in the total number of violent deaths to the extent of 481. Of the 2626 homicides committed during 1867, 264 are described as involuntary, 2259 as voluntary, and 103 as infanticides. Of the last named there was a diminution of 34 in 1867 compared with 1866.

GERMANY.

A congress of the Catholic associations of Germany is to be held at Dusseldorf on the 6th of next month, and is to last three days. Among the subjects to be discussed are—Education, the relations between Church and State, the working classes, &c. It is also proposed to establish an organisation against the "irreligious" press.

Since the incorporation of Frankfort-on-the-Maine with Prussia many of the inhabitants of the city have had their children naturalised as Swiss, in order to avoid the conscription, there being cantons in Switzerland where naturalisation can be very easily obtained on payment of a sum of money. The Prussian Government, in order to put a stop to this abuse, has announced that persons born in Frankfort, who are relieved in this manner from their military obligations, must go and reside in the country to which they have become subjects. This determination has caused much excitement in the city.

AUSTRIA.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Reichsrath's Delegations the ordinary and extraordinary naval budgets were adopted, in accordance with the propositions of the General Budget Committee.

The Minister of War made a speech last Saturday on the occasion of the army estimates being discussed, in the course of which he said that, looking at the state of affairs throughout the world, it would be impolitic to effect military reductions, and still less could Austria take the lead in such a step. A sixth battalion having been added to each regiment, the army was increased by ninety battalions, so that now a force of 500,000 to 600,000 well-disciplined men, ready to march, could be immediately called out. Notwithstanding this, the number of men actually under arms was excessively small.

TURKEY.

It is stated that the answer of the Viceroy of Egypt was received in Constantinople on Monday, and is considered entirely satisfactory.

PERSIA.

Advices received at Berlin from the Taurus, dated the 15th inst., state that a band of the Bahi sect, from Constantinople, have been arrested at Teheran, charged with conspiring to assassinate the Shah. Many persons occupying high positions are said to be implicated in the plot. The Persian troops have gained a victory over the Turcomans, and captured the fortress of Garietrel, about 400 versts from Asterabad.

THE UNITED STATES.

Chief Justice Chase has written a letter declaring that the mission of the Republican party has been accomplished, and advocating the formation of a new party, to be composed of the Conservative elements of existing parties. Reports received from Virginia, North Carolina, and several western States, state that the corn crops have suffered badly from drought.

Numerous meetings have been called in Virginia by the Conservative Democrats to protest against General Canby's proposed enforcement of the Test Oath Requirement in cases when the election would give seats to members of the Legislature belonging to the Conservative majority elected in opposition to Radical candidates defeated at the polls.

CUBA.

The conscription has been commenced in Espiritu Santo and Trinidad. A conscription was ordered of all men between twenty and fifty-five. Fifteen hundred conscripts have already been obtained in Trinidad. There is little change in the military situation.

INDIA.

A statement recently published that Shere Ali had been shot at and wounded is now declared to be wholly unfounded. Rumours are again current that Herat has been captured, but no confirmation of them has been received.

THE JEWS.—The spirit of change seems to have penetrated the most conservative of religious communities—the Jewish. At the recent synod of Jewish rabbis a Dr. Gelzer brought forward a series of propositions, of which the most important were that the belief in the restoration of the Jews to Palestine "is entirely extinct in our mind;" that "the progress of the times is incompatible with the performance of sacrifices;" and that "the act of religious divorce should be simplified." Another divine affirms that certain of the laws contained in the Pentateuch "have belonged for some time past to archæological science alone," and that others "must necessarily be submitted to a scientific investigation."

DEATH OF MARSHAL NIEL.

DEEP and wide-felt is the mourning of every military man in France, from the private to the highest ranks of the service, for the gallant Marshal Niel, whose death occurred on Friday, Aug. 13. After two convulsions of agony he expired at midnight of that day, his intellect to the last occupied by details of business connected with the Ministry of War; and, although perfectly aware of his dying condition, engaged in dictating his last wishes and hopes as regards his beloved army, to the aggrandisement and improvement of which he had devoted his last years and exhausted his bodily powers. His illness was accompanied by torture, which the veteran soldier bore with the firmness and courage he had so often exhibited on the field of battle; an accident which occurred during an operation in itself painful having materially increased his sufferings. Born in 1802, he entered the Polytechnic in 1821, which he quitted with the grade of Sub-Lieutenant in 1823, to enter the Engineer and Artillery School of Application at Metz. Young Niel took part in the African campaign of '36, and was present at the siege of Constantina. At the early age of forty-one he attained the rank of Colonel of Engineers, and in 1849 was intrusted with the command of that branch of the service during the expedition to Rome and the siege of that capital. Niel had the gratification of effecting a breach in the ancient walls of the city without incurring a single relic of its past glory. In acknowledgment of that eminent service General Niel was commissioned to take the keys of Rome to the Pope, then at Gaeta. In 1854 a corps d'armée under Baraguay d'Hilliers was dispatched to the Baltic, for the purpose of destroying the Russian fortresses on the island of Aland. Niel commanded the engineers, and it was to his skill and scientific tactics that the fall of Bomarsund after a few days' siege is to be attributed. In the following year the Emperor commissioned his recently-appointed aide-de-camp to start for Sebastopol. Niel, after an accurate survey, recognised that no siege had ever been undertaken under such unfavourable circumstances. Not only had the fortress, ammunition, stores, and defences accumulated during seventy years, but the guns belonging to the fleet were served by 15,000 sailors admirably trained to the service of the artillery. Niel decided on the investment of the place, pointed out the bastion Kornikoff as the key of the fortress, which bastion, since known as the Malakoff, has acquired historic renown. In 1857 General Niel was raised to the rank of senator, and was further honoured by being designated to represent his Sovereign at the marriage of Prince Napoleon with the young daughter of the future King of Italy. At Magenta Niel took a prominent part in the honours of the day; and at Solferino it was due to his initiative that, at a moment when the overwhelming numbers of the enemy appeared to menace the right wing of the French, by adopting a favourite movement of the first Emperor, he consolidated his forces on the centre of the Austrian army, and by this brilliant change turned the wavering fortunes of the day and carried off a decisive victory. On the field, Napoleon III., addressing Niel as *Maréchal de France*, promptly rewarded a service which he fully acknowledged in his despatch to the Empress published in the *Moniteur* of the following morning. From Toulouse, where Marshal Niel commanded the 6th Corps d'Armée, the Emperor summoned him, in January, 1867, to his Cabinet as Minister of War, in order to carry out the vast scheme he had planned, of reorganising the army and creating the *Garde Mobile*. It is due to his prodigious activity that the French army, supplied with a newly-invented weapon and double in number, has in the space of eighteen months been completely transformed, and now placed in a condition to meet the increased forces of its formidable neighbour and rival.

DANCING WITH THE BEARS.—A few days since a party of excursionists from Chatham had been spending the day in the vicinity of Mr. Dickens's residence, Gad's-hill, near Rochester, when, on their return, in the evening, they fell in with a couple of dancing-bears, which were going through their performances in the road in front of Mr. Dickens's house. The enjoyments of the day having had their customary effects on the excursionists, one of the men, more elated than his companions, insisted on joining the bears in their performances and dancing with them, the keepers in vain attempting to prevent him. At length, with the intention of causing him to desist, the keeper removed the muzzle of one of the bears; but this failed to stop the dance. By this time a great crowd had assembled, when Mr. Dickens, seeing the serious turn matters were assuming, appeared on the scene and himself assisted in re-muzzling the bear, at the same time good-humouredly addressing the crowd and restoring peace between the enraged keepers of the bears and the author of the too serious frolic.

THE TERRIBLE COLLIERY ACCIDENT IN SAXONY.—The opinion that the unfortunate miners in the Burg Colliery were all immediately killed by the explosion proves incorrect. In the note-book of the miner Bühr the following entry has been found:—"This is the last place where we have taken refuge. I have given up all hope, because the ventilation in the Segengottes shaft and the Hoffnugs shaft has been destroyed in three separate places. May God take myself, and my relations and dear friends who must die with me, as well as our families, under his protection!—Ernst Bühr." In the Hoffnugs shaft, too, the following words have been found:—"Janetz died; Richter left his family to God." And again:—"Farewell, dear wife! Farewell, dear children! May God keep you! Gottlieb Heilmann." And, lastly:—"Farewell, dear wife and children. I did not think it would end so.—Obernann." One of the names of Schmidt had pinned a paper with the following words to the breast of his blouse:—"My dear relations, while seeing death before me, I remember you. Farewell, till we meet again in happiness! The rest I must leave to you. Between nine and ten o'clock." On the other side stood the words:—"Dear wife, take good care of Mary. In a book in the bed-room you will find a thaler. Farewell, dear mother and sisters, till we meet again!" All must have been over about ten o'clock on the 2nd inst. On the 12th 236 bodies had been recovered. By far the greater part must have died suddenly. The great grave was then closed, as some time will probably elapse before the rest are recovered, on account of the masses of earth that obstruct the way. The rest will be buried separately. Messrs. Asher and Co., publishers, of 15, Bedford-street, Covent-garden, are authorised to receive subscriptions on behalf of the sufferers by this terrible catastrophe.

DEAN STANLEY ON THE VOYSEY PROSECUTION.—A fund is being raised for the purpose of enabling the Rev. C. Voysey, Vicar of Heanlough, to defend himself against the charges of heresy alleged against him by the Archbishop of York. In subscribing to the fund, Dr. Stanley, Dean of Westminster, says that, while strongly deprecating Mr. Voysey's mode of treating Biblical and sacred subjects, he cannot but be aware that it is an exaggeration caused by equally reprehensible exaggerations of another kind; and, at the same time that he condemns and regrets much that the sermons contain, he recognises in them no less a rare honesty of purpose, as well as a humble and devout faith, which seem to him to demand the utmost sympathy for the frame of mind which has led to results in other respects to be lamented. "There are, however," says the Dean, "other and more general reasons why I am glad to have this opportunity of protesting against a course which appears to me fraught with mischief to the Church. 1. The questions which Mr. Voysey has stirred are such as agitate the minds both of clergy and laity in an unusual degree at the present time. They admit of every conceivable shade in their mode of exposition and solution. Persons of high rank in the Church are known to have entertained them, and at times given them utterance without drawing upon themselves legal prosecution, or even considerable blame. Under these circumstances an attempt at an abrupt suppression of their agitation in a single instance appears to me the least desirable conclusion that could be arrived at. 2. These questions are agitated not only in the Church of England, but, more or less, in all the Churches of Europe. On some of the most important of them, latitude of thought and expression—at least, in theory—is still left in the Roman Catholic and Eastern Churches, is openly allowed in many Protestant Churches, and has only been arbitrarily restrained in some narrow and limited communities. It would be a deplorable issue if such a restraint were to be enforced by the Church of England, first among the historical Churches of Christendom. 3. In principle, the latitude demanded has been conceded by recent judgments, as is confessed by those who regard these judgments with alarm. All, therefore, that could be effected by an adverse decision in this instance would be a limitation in point of detail, which would leave a sense of personal hardship, without furnishing any guide for future action. 4. These are some of the evils which would result if the prosecution were successful. On the other hand, even those who have urged the prosecution must be sensible of the evil consequences if it were unsuccessful. There are many among the half-educated and uneducated classes who, not being able to distinguish between the form and the substance, the letter and the spirit, would imagine that, if Mr. Voysey were acquitted, the Church of England would stand committed to all the crude or extravagant expressions which he may have used. It would certainly be presumed, with reason, that every statement published by him and either not prosecuted or not condemned is henceforth admissible. It is obvious that this would lead to an agitation and reaction of the very kind which the prosecution is intended, probably, to avert."

HARVESTING BY ARTIFICIAL HEAT.

THERE is yet time for an enterprising farmer to prepare himself against the contingency of a wet-weather harvest. To prevent the drenching of his wheat and barley and oat shocks by the down-pour of an inclement season is beyond his power; and, indeed, field contrivances for keeping out the wet unfortunately operate, also, in keeping it all the longer in. The mischief, however, is not, so to speak, in the wetting, but in the slow and precarious drying. It is the waiting for sun and wind, the setting up of shocks that have been beaten down by the storm, the turning of sheaves again and again with their dampest sides outward, and thus losing days and nights together while the clouds blow up for renewed down-pour as soon as the corn is once more ready for carting, and it is the repetition of this alternate saturating and slow drying that bring us grown grain and spoil straw with losses of hundreds of pounds in a single harvest to a farmer of average occupation. Give us a plan by which we may expeditiously and cheaply desiccate our wetted crops and so cart them directly the rain ceases—snatching our harvest, as it were, and stacking our produce with certainty and in good condition during the intervals between the showers, and we shall be comparatively careless about a weeping season and the absence of a fervid sun over the heads of our reapers and waggoners. Is such a dream likely to be realised? What proofs have we that such artificial treatment of ripe but shelterless corn is feasible? And can it be adopted at once by any intelligent husbandman?

We will endeavour to answer these questions. It will be remembered that the Society of Arts last year awarded a gold medal, with a purse of fifty guineas, for the best essay on this very subject. The adjudicators were Mr. Charles Wren Hoskyns, M.P.; Mr. Clare Sewell Read, M.P.; and Mr. John Chalmers Morton, authorities whose knowledge and judgment command the highest respect from all thoughtful and practical agriculturists; and the winner of the prize, out of twenty competitors, was Mr. William Alfred Gibbs, of Gillwell Park, Sewardstone, Woodford, Essex, a gentleman of mechanical and agricultural as well as literary tastes, and enjoying the leisure, the patience, and other resources needful for developing with success the idea of his inventive genius. The essay, reporting the results of lengthened experiments upon an adequate scale, may be said to have established the following conclusions:—1. Sheaves of ripened wheat, completely soaked with water by long exposure to heavy rains, can be made dry enough for the stack by forcing through them currents of heated air for a period of fifteen to twenty minutes. 2. The temperature of the incoming air may be as high as 320 deg. Fahrenheit without in the least damaging either grain or straw, for only a few ears in each sheaf come in immediate contact with the injected current of hot air, which is at once cooled by the evaporation of the moisture on the straw and ears, and the chaff scales protect the grain itself from any scorching heat, and from any burnt or smoky taint or smell, so that flour from wheat thus dried is found to make good bread, while upon five separate plots sown with wheat out of the hot-blast drying-chamber all the grains germinated and produced luxuriant plants. 3. This effectually desiccating, but non-injurious, hot air may be supplied of the requisite regular temperature and in sufficient volume by means of a blowing-fan driven by a portable steam-engine, and drawing the whole of the gaseous products of combustion out of the smoke-box of the engine-boiler, the fuel used being maling coal or coke. Or the fan may be driven by horse-power with a "horse works," the hot air being furnished by a portable stove. 4. So little motive power is demanded for the operation that an eight-horse portable steam-engine, working at only 10 lb. pressure, or one sixth of its usual power, drives a large fan with a speed of 600 revolutions per minute, and delivers enough hot air to thoroughly dry thirty-two sheaves of very wet wheat in fifteen minutes. 5. The probable consumption of fuel is about 1 cwt. of coke for every 8 cwt. of water evaporated.

Mr. Gibbs exhibited his apparatus in the Royal Agricultural Society's showyard at Manchester; but we believe that no official investigation was there made into the amount of fuel burnt in driving off a given weight of water from wetted corn. It was proved, however, that one of Messrs. Woods, Cocksedge, and Warner's 3-horse power steam-engines, working at its normal pressure of 45 lb., could drive a four-leaved fan of 4 ft. diameter and 2½ ft. breadth with a speed of 600 revolutions per minute; that the hot air supplied by the fire in the upright boiler of the engine, and also by another fire in a small stove, was delivered by the fan at a temperature of 320 deg.; and that this torrid blast was able to expel from thirty-two sheaves of very wet rye no less than 1½ lb. to 2½ lb. of water per sheaf in the course of fifteen minutes.

We have now to consider how this valuable invention can be made immediately and extensively available for drying the corn crops at present yellowing for harvest or already falling before the scythe, the sickle, and the reaping-machine. The motive power is, or may be at a few days' notice, in every farmer's possession. If he has not a portable steam-engine of his own, and cannot hire one from a letter-out of steam thrashing-machines, he has, or can quickly procure, a common "horse-works" for three or four horses. A blowing-fan of proper dimensions will be supplied upon application by Mr. Gibbs's manufacturers, Messrs. Woods, Cocksedge, and Warner, of Stowmarket, or Mr. Gibbs would probably furnish to any implement or machine maker, or to a village smith, descriptive details for the very simple construction of a fan, with its galvanised sheet-iron casing and its indraght and delivery passages. The arrangement of this fan for being driven with a speed of 600 to 800 revolutions per minute, either by a belt directly from the fly-wheel of an engine, or by a belt from a rigger, upon what is called the intermediate motion of a horse-works, can present no practical difficulties to anybody accustomed to farmyard machinery. The hot blast is to be obtained in this way:—If you work a portable steam-engine, remove or close up the chimney; take off the door of the smoke-box, and fit to the aperture the sheet-iron indraght or feed passage, which will take all the gaseous products of combustion to the central openings in the sides of the fan casing. A screen of maling-wire must be interposed over the smoke-box opening, so as to intercept live sparks, which might be dangerous. If you are limited to a common horse-works for driving the fan, or if you propose to dry on such a scale that the hot air from the engine might prove insufficient, you can very easily construct a stove that will furnish the necessary volume of heated air for the hot blast. Make a furnace of sheet iron, somewhat like a long horizontal box with upright sides, an arched top, and a bottom of iron pipes arranged longitudinally, these pipes forming the firebars upon which the fuel is burnt. There are to be an outer and an inner casing, like two boxes of similar shape, but a few inches different in size, one placed within the other, the few inches of space between the two sheet-iron cases being filled with earthenware tubes, as drain-pipes, longitudinally arranged up the sides and over the top. Perhaps suitable dimensions might be 6 ft. or 8 ft. length, 2 ft. breadth, and about the same height; and more than one of such stoves could be used in connection with one fan. When the fan is set in motion streams of air pass above, below, around and through the fuel, through the pipes, and along the interstices between them, absorbing and utilising almost all the heat evolved during the combustion. Any intelligent smith could fashion such a stove from a sketch and instructions, and thus, up to this point, we have both the motive power and the hot blast quickly procurable, and no more difficulty or delay need be found in fixing up the part of the apparatus which holds the corn while drying.

In Mr. Gibbs's invention each wheat-sheaf, in an upright position, with the ears uppermost, is spiked upon a conical tube of 18 in. length, and a jet of hot air, rising through the tube, is injected into the centre of the sheaf in such a direction as to rush upward through the mass of ears. At the same time, a number of small perforations in the lower part of the conical tube admit hot air also into every part of the straw end and middle of the sheaf. The sheaf-tubes, made of sheet iron, are fixed upright upon a sheet-iron

floor, and stand in ranks 18 in. apart, and at intervals of the same distance in the rows, the floor forming the cover of a receptacle into which the blast of heated air is driven by the fan. The arrangement reminds one of the pipes, sound-board, and wind-chest of an organ. The tubulated flooring is supplied by Mr. Gibbs at the price of about 1s. 6d. per square foot; and all the farmer has to do is to contrive a suitable form of structure and a plan of working that shall enable him to dry a large quantity of corn with the least extent of this flooring, with the least amount of shed or of the covering necessary to keep in the heat, with the greatest dispatch, and with the least expenditure of labour. What would be the best, most economical, and most business-like arrangement it is not for us to prescribe; but, by way of illustration, we will suppose a case. Upon any convenient plot of ground in or near the rickyard a space is cleared and levelled, and a structure of planks erected, say, of the following form:—Planks on edge, set up between light uprights, make a wall 36 ft. in length (being in two lengths of 18-ft. deals) and 8 ft. in height. Two end walls, each of 14 ft. in length and 8 ft. high, and three partitions of the same length and height, inclose four stalls or boxes of equal area, each box having a ground floor of 14 ft. by 9 ft. The top is covered by similar planks, and the four open ends of the boxes are closed at pleasure by means of rick-cloth curtains hanging from the front edge of the flat roof. It will be observed that the planks are not cut or injured in any way, beyond the slight damage that may arise from the heat and damp, with the exception that two of the lowermost planks are cut in short lengths to leave apertures for the entrance of the hot air, and that some other of the wood is subjected to a little nailing. In each of the four boxes is fitted a tubulated iron floor measuring 14 ft. by 9 ft., and therefore having upon it fifty-four of the vertical sheaf-tubes, which stand at 18-inch distances; and this floor is supported underneath, so that it is about 8 in. or 10 in. off the ground. A single plank, in two 18-foot lengths, closes the fronts of the hot-air chambers between the iron floors and the ground; earth or clay is banked or plastered up against the plank walls all round for a few inches in height, and the four tolerably air-tight hot-air receptacles are connected by sheet-iron passages of, perhaps, 1½ square foot calibre, with the blowing-fan, which is placed close behind the shed, about midway of its length. Dampers are provided, so that the current of hot air can be directed into any one or more of the chambers at pleasure; and the interstices between the planks of the walls and roof allow the moist air to escape from the boxes that are charged with corn. Suppose that a cartload arrives from the field every twenty minutes, bringing on an average 108 wet and heavy sheaves, and that twenty minutes are allowed for each drying. The work proceeds thus:—A cart deposits half its load in front of compartment No. 1, one man throwing off the sheaves, and another man, with lad assisting, sticking them upon the sheaf-tubes. This may occupy ten minutes, when the cloth is let down in front of the compartment filled with its fifty-four sheaves, and the hot blast is turned on. The second half of the cartload is placed in compartment No. 2. The next cartload similarly fills compartments Nos. 3 and 4. When the third cartload arrives from the field, compartment No. 1 will be again ready for its reception, because forty minutes have elapsed since the former filling began; and, of this time, ten minutes were occupied in filling, twenty minutes in drying, and ten minutes in clearing out the dried sheaves. One man and two lads accomplish the clearing and loading of the corn upon a separate service of, say, two carts, which convey it to the stack. Fifteen minutes being probably a sufficient period for acting upon the sheaves by the hot air, the emptying of each compartment and the loading of the dry corn carts may proceed with deliberation, giving the stuff more time to cool and to part with its steam before finally reaching the rick. The hands required, in addition to the usual carrying force requisite for transferring the crop from the field to the stack, are three men and three lads—viz., one man and boy charging the compartments, one man and two boys clearing and loading, and one man putting up the dried corn upon the stack. It will be perceived that the plan of charging four compartments with two loads, instead of having only two compartments of the size of four, is adopted for the purpose of obtaining ample time for the manipulation as well as for the drying of the sheaves, yet with a minimum area of shed-room and tubulated flooring. Equipped with such an apparatus, the farmer would be in this position:—After a rain, instead of his horses all standing idle and his men merely setting up fallen shocks, one set of carts would at once be kept busy in leading from the field, and drying, and making the corn safe in the rickyard. The saving of his crops would be a certainty, although, of course, a more expensive business than in uninterrupted fine weather; and this avoidance of great risk, and, perhaps, of a serious destruction of produce, would cost him, it may be, 1s. per quarter upon his whole crop of cereals. But if only one half his white corn had to be treated by hot blast, this we suppose to be an excessive estimate.—*Times*.

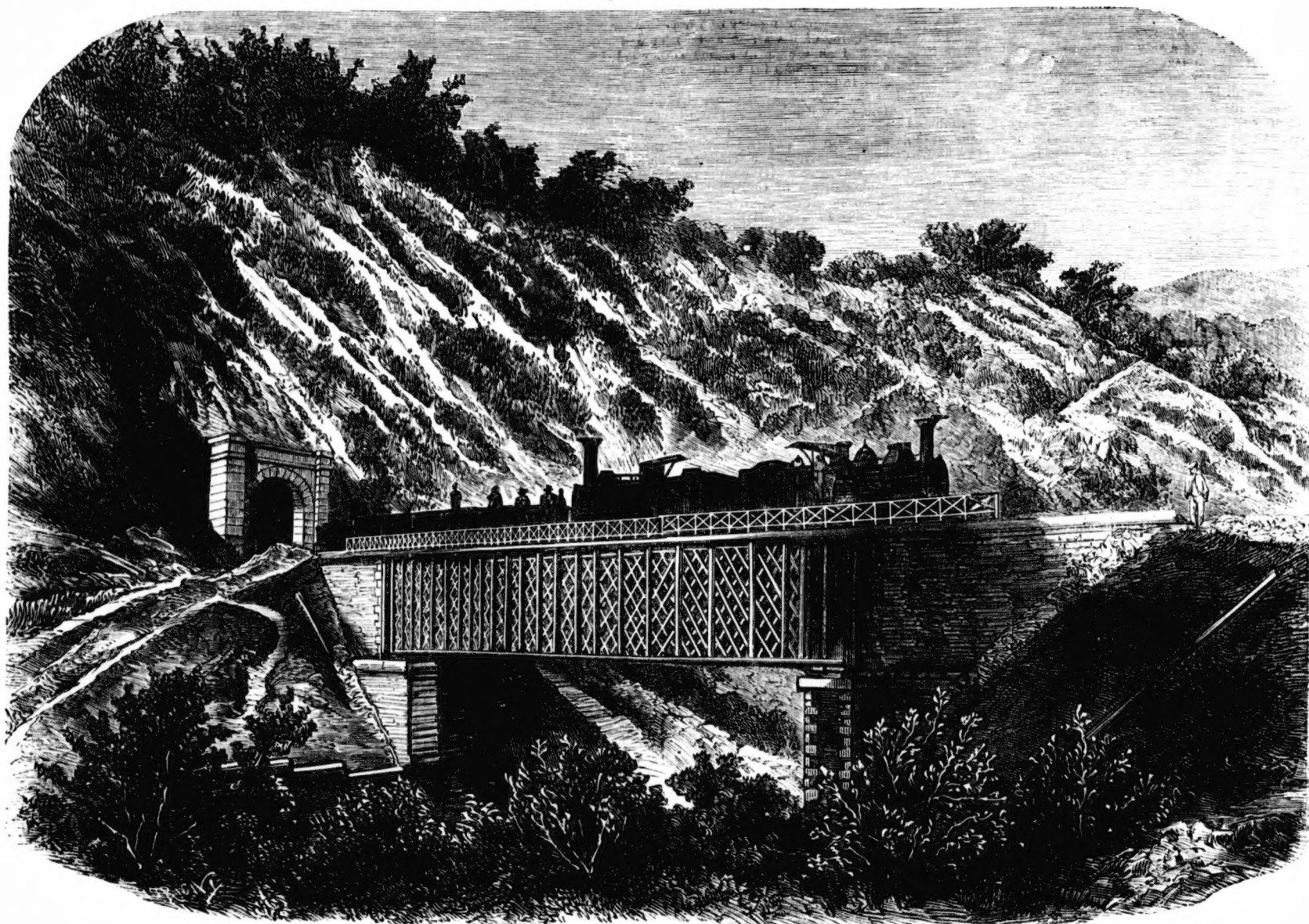
REVIEW OF THE PARIS FIREMEN BY MARSHAL CANROBERT.

THE Paris fireman is quite a military personage, and the formation of his corps, which first took definite shape in the seventeenth century, is entirely a military organisation. In 1699 about a dozen rude fire-engines were made for the protection of the city of Paris by M. Dumouriez-Duperrier. The firemen, or pompiers, were at that time a kind of volunteer corps, formed of carpenters, masons, and other handicraftsmen, and, although Louis XIV. to some extent authorised its regulation, it was not till long afterwards that it became a complete body with an official status. In 1786 there were above 200 of these men in Paris, however, and during the Revolution they played an important part in the national celebrations. It was at that time that they were assimilated to the regular defenders of the country, and were placed on much the same footing as a crack regiment in the army. Napoleon at once took advantage of their military organisation to turn them into a corps, and they have gradually augmented in numbers ever since, until they have grown into two battalions of six companies numbering 1572 men, who take rank next to the Zouaves. Their present Colonel is M. Willermé, of whom all Paris speaks as a brave and worthy officer of a brave regiment. It was on the occasion of the reorganisation of the corps that the men were reviewed by Marshal Canrobert, who presented to the regiment a flag, sent to them by the Emperor, as a recognition of their gallantry and usefulness.

RAILWAY VIADUCT BETWEEN BLIDAH AND BOU-MEDSA, ALGERIA.

IN one district of Algeria the appliances of modern civilisation may be said to have been completed by the construction not only of a line of railway to carry passengers from Algiers to Oran, which is the principal artery of locomotion, but of numerous small branch lines to various stations. Of these several are completed, and the last that has been opened is that from Blidah to Bou-Medsa, a continuation of the small line from Algiers to Blidah, which was finished in 1863.

Blidah (the Bida Colonia of Ptolemy) is situated at the foot of the Little Atlas, at the entrance of a deep valley, twenty-nine miles south of Algiers. The city itself is better built than Algiers. At its entrance is the Cemetery, with its strange sepulchral stones, and its aerial minarets, cupolas, and tile-covered roofs inclosed in groves of trees which, with its beautiful gardens, will account for the love entertained by the inhabitants for their native place, which they used once to style the second Damascus. The country in its vicinity is well cultivated, fields of corn, potatoes, and flax, surrounded by hedges, occupying the slope of the mountains, while the environs of the town are rendered attractive by the numerous orange groves that fill the air with their delicious perfume. The railway, setting out from Blidah, descends by a very decided incline to the Oued



RAILWAY VIADUCT BETWEEN BLIDAH AND BOU-MEDSA, ALGERIA.

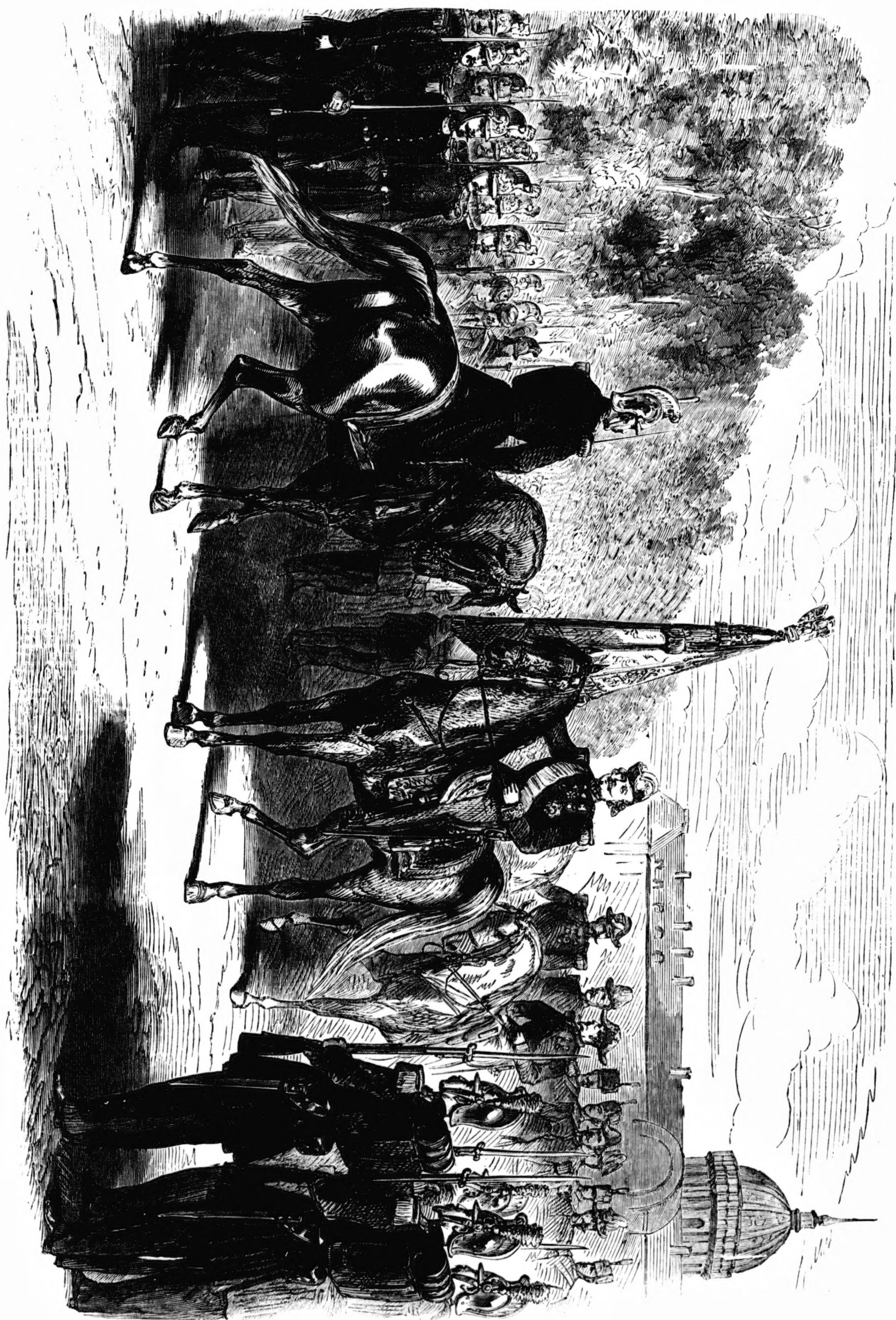
Chiffa, which it crosses by means of an iron bridge, and thence traverses the fertile plain of Metidja, which extends for about twelve miles in breadth, and reaches from the foot of a ridge of mountains running parallel from east to west, or from the bay of Algiers to the upper extremity of the level. The line follows as nearly as possible the Imperial road, so that it may the more

easily communicate with the pretty little villages of Chiffa, Mouzaia, Bou-Roumi, and El-Affroun. On leaving this last village it abruptly quits the plain, and enters a mountainous gorge formed by the lesser chain of the Atlas, and by successive ascents conveys the traveller to the station at Bou-Medsa, at an elevation of some 800 ft. This second part of the line presents important engineering

works made necessary by the difficulties that present themselves. Besides numerous bridges, there are three successive tunnels under mountainous ridges, and the sinuous course of the Oued-Djar is spanned five times during the journey. Our Engraving represents a viaduct immediately following a tunnel on one of the wildest spots on the route.



CUBAN INSURGENTS BURNING A SUGAR-HOUSE AT LOS INGENIOS.



REVIEW OF THE FIREMEN OF PARIS BY MARSHAL CANROBERT, AND PRESENTATION OF A FLAG FROM THE EMPEROR, ON THE ESPLANADE OF THE INVALIDES.

CUBAN INSURGENTS BURNING A SUGAR-FACTORY.

OUR illustration of the Cuban insurrection this week is an example of the lawless destruction which is sure to follow insurrection, and, in the unhappy condition of a prolonged rebellion, to become the rule rather than the exception. It was at Los Ingenios, in the neighbourhood of Trinidad, where there are several sugar-factories, that the insurgents made their last mischievous raid. They not only set fire to the buildings, but destroyed the machinery, so that the entire place is a wreck and its industry altogether at a standstill.

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1869.

"ALINGTON V. ELLIOTT."

THERE may be people who understand this story from first to last; but we frankly confess we do not. It begins in a squabble at the theatre. The story—we no more vouch for the truth of it than for that of the last novel out at Mudie's—runs thus:—Whitehouse, being an attendant at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, sees, or thinks he sees, Alington mauling some flowers on the staircase, and rebukes him. Alington, feeling affronted, retorts that he shall report the attendant to the manager; but, for the moment, nothing more comes of it. Shortly afterwards, in the refreshment-room, Whitehouse asks Alington if he has yet reported him to the manager. "No," says Alington: he has been preoccupied. "Ah!" replies Whitehouse, rudely, "you are too much of a coward." Then Alington—so the story continues—strikes out at Whitehouse's face, and, in so doing, punctures his eye with the diamond of a ring which he happens to wear. The consequences to Whitehouse are very unpleasant, and in the end Whitehouse summons Alington before Mr. Tyrwhitt for the assault. It is alleged that Alington turned the ring round before hitting out, in order that the diamond might be just in front; Mr. Tyrwhitt, using strong language about the alleged conduct of Alington, fines him £5, or two months' imprisonment. This is the story, which may, for what we know, be pure invention, so far. The defendant did not appeal.

Shortly afterwards *Echoes*—a periodical with the politics of which we have no sympathy, though we have every consideration for its ability—wrote an article which called Alington "a ruffian, a brute, and a coward." Upon this Alington brought an action for libel. The action was tried at Croydon the other day before Chief Baron Kelly, and, directed by him upon the law of the case, the jury gave Alington £500 damages. The counsel for the defendant, the publisher of *Echoes*, applied for a stay of execution on the ground that he should move to set aside the verdict as being greatly in excess of the justice of the case. Of course, execution was stayed; and so the matter rests for the present, as far as our contemporaries will allow it to rest. They appear to be unanimously of opinion that nothing can be more absurd and hazardous than a state of the law under which journalists—and, it may be added, private persons, who use their tongues instead of their pens—are liable to be punished for assuming that a magisterial decision, against which no appeal is made, is a just one: a condition of things, in fact, which enables a man convicted of a public offence in due course of law, such as the law is, to get all the benefit of an appeal by attacking the persons who, for purposes of comment in writing or conversation, have assumed the justice of the decision in the police court.

Before Chief Baron Kelly, Mr. Alington swore that he did not turn the ring so as to place the diamond outside, and, we are told, "produced the ring, from which it appeared that the diamond was in the centre of the ring, and that its projection was necessarily outside and in front of the finger." Mr. Alington also produced evidence to character; but it is the passage we have just quoted which puzzles us more than all the rest. How can a diamond which is on a ring at all be anywhere but at the centre? A ring is all "centre"—at least, we have always been under that impression.

But, taken altogether, the case is a curious one. How came Mr. Tyrwhitt, upon the sole evidence of the man who was struck—which is the account of the matter assumed by Chief Baron Kelly—to take it for granted that Alington turned the ring round before striking Whitehouse? It was, surely, a most unlikely thing for any man to do, and it must have required some deliberation. Besides, why should the ring want turning, if the object of Alington was to wound with the diamond? The stone on a ring is universally worn outwards,

As to the sequel, it may be soon dismissed. It seems that *Echoes* quarrelled with Alington's description of himself as a "gentleman," and suggested that he was a waiter; when the fact is that his name and lineage—which last dates from the Conquest—are to be found in "Burke," and he is a county magistrate. Apart from this, the article was a "bruise;" and went, in our opinion, beyond the limits of public comment. But the damages were preposterous—they were the damages of a stupid jury in a panic of virtue excited by the Grenville-Murray scandal, and if Chief Baron Kelly directed the jury, as we are informed he did, that a journalist (who, as we have recently insisted, stands in exactly the same position as any other individual making public comments on the conduct of another citizen) has no right to comment on the conduct of publicly-convicted persons unless he is prepared to plead a justification over and above the fact of the conviction, then Chief Baron Kelly has assuredly laid down a rule of law in which he will not be unanimously supported by his brethren.

Our own opinion, not now stated for the first time, is that "the press" in general does greatly exceed bounds in commenting upon any wrongdoing of individuals which becomes public property. Journalists hard up for topics go off into hysterical epithets because they must "make copy;" they hit hard because hard-hitting tells; they exercise but little discrimination; they take far too much for granted; and, after all, what good is done by a paragraph of violent language applied to a man who has done wrong? Indignation must have its safety-valves, but public justice does not need "bruises"—it is deeply concerned in disowning them. One thing, at least, is always possible, in making the severest comment—namely, to make it with a reserve, when only one side of a story has been heard. In the meanwhile, the applications of the law of libel and slander stand greatly in need of assimilation. Chief Baron Kelly seems to lean to the old-fashioned construction; Lord Chief Justice Cockburn to the new, and, as we might call it, latitudinarian reading. Our opinion is that the former Judge leans to the safer and juster side; but that in this particular case his ruling is wrong.

We shall not commit a libel ourselves, but we cannot allow Mr. Alington to ride off thus. We read that he is both a "gentleman" and a magistrate. It is not worth while to go over all the shades of meaning that may be supposed to lie between the word "gentleman" and the word "ruffian." If the exact intermediate word were found to describe the man who, in a paltry dispute with a servant, must needs let fly at his face with a hand that carries a ring ("turned" just as you please to assume), that exact intermediate word would not be a flattering one. If we had to choose the epithet—we by no means affirm that it would be applicable to Mr. Alington—due to a vulgar brawler of this stamp, it would be sufficiently expressive of contempt and disgust without being libellous.

THE HOME SECRETARY AND CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

THE prerogative of mercy with respect to capital punishment was found so onerous and oppressive that the Sovereign has been relieved of all responsibility, and it now rests with the Home Secretary to commute the sentence or to sign the death warrant. Unfortunately, the duty of the Home Secretary is not merely executive, but he has become a Court of Appeal, and after the jury has returned a verdict of guilty and the Judge has passed sentence, it rests with the Home Secretary whether the convict shall or shall not be executed. With Fanny Oliver Mr. Bruce had no difficulty, because the Judge who presided at the trial recommended a commutation of the sentence, and of course such a recommendation is not to be disregarded. But it has become the rule in almost all cases to memorialise the Home Secretary for a commutation of the sentence, and that officer is placed in a position of considerable difficulty. He may consult the sentencing Judge, but he must not in every instance abide by the opinion of the Judge, since the appeal is to the executive and not to the Judge. To make the Judge decide would be throwing on him an unfair and inconvenient responsibility. The Home Secretary has to contend with the expression of public opinion, which is invariably on the side of clemency, because it is pleasant and easy to be clement when there is no judicial or executive responsibility. Home Secretaries are but men, and they must needs be more or less influenced by the clamour for mercy. There are, indeed, well-defined grounds on which the Home Secretary may advise an act of mercy. If evidence is adduced after the trial which would probably have affected the verdict, there is a sound reason for the commutation of the sentence, though there are valid objections to evidence not adduced in open court. If the convict is, on the authority of competent medical men, adjudged to be insane, the capital punishment ought to be commuted. Then—and this is the most difficult case to deal with, if there are palliative circumstances—as, for example, great provocation—there is opportunity for clemency. Probably no plan can be devised for doing away with the appeal to the Crown, but it might, perhaps, be made less frequent and less difficult to dispose of. Might it not, for instance, be left to the jury to decide whether there were or were not palliative circumstances, and, when they appended to the verdict a recommendation for mercy, the prisoner be sentenced to lifelong penal servitude? This would be practically adopting the system of two degrees of murder, and such an innovation requires the gravest consideration. All we contend is, that something ought to be done, if anything can be done, to relieve the Home Secretary of a part, at least, of his present responsibility in respect to capital punishment.—*Law Journal*.

THE OECUMENICAL COUNCIL.—Dr. Cumming has addressed the following letter to the Pope (the original is in Latin):—"Holy Father,—You have been pleased to invite to the Oecumenical Council the Protestants and others who are divided and separated from the Church of Rome. We are heartily grateful for the invitation, and are earnestly desirous to be present in the Council. During the course of the year I have sent many letters to the Most Reverend Dr. Manning, in order to get information as to the extent to which liberty of speaking will be granted to us. The most rev. and learned doctor, with much courtesy, replied to me on this point in these words: 'I am unable to give you any answer as to the mode of proceeding. The supreme authority alone can furnish you with that.' For this reason, Holy Father, I earnestly beseech you to be pleased to inform me whether, in the approaching Council, we shall be allowed the liberty of speaking and bringing forward the reasons for which we Protestants are separated and divided from the Church of Rome.—I am, your Holiness's obedient servant, JOHN CUMMING, D.D., Presbyterian of the Scotch Church."

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

HER MAJESTY arrived at Windsor from Osborne on Wednesday, and started for Balmoral on Thursday. The Queen was accompanied by several members of the Royal family.

THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH is expected at Constantinople on Sept. 30, not on the 20th, as was some time since announced. Her Majesty will be met by the Grand Vizier at the Dardanelles. The Empress is expected to spend eight days on the Bosphorus.

PRINCE ARTHUR left the Mersey for Canada on board the City of Paris, at three o'clock last Saturday afternoon.

MISS BURDETT COUTTS has accepted the invitation of the Burgomaster and municipality of Liege to be present at the international rifle contest which is to take place in that city about the middle of next month.

SIR JOHN G. TOLLEMACHE SINCLAIR has announced his intention of contesting Caithness-shire with Mr. Traill.

THE DEAN OF WINDSOR has issued notices that St. George's Chapel will in future be open to visitors every week-day from twelve till four, and that the officials are forbidden to receive any gratuity.

COLONEL JERVIS, M.P., who is recovering from a severe illness, a few days ago received a handsome silver tankard, as a testimonial from 114 officers of the Madras army in acknowledgment of his efforts on their behalf in the House of Commons. The tankard was inclosed in a large case made from a pillar of teak in Tippeco Sultan's palace at Seringapatam.

THE NEW ALBERT DOCK, at Leith, will be opened this day (Saturday). This dock has been five years in construction, and has cost about a quarter of a million.

THE BOILERS of the steam-boat Cumberland exploded on the Ohio river last Saturday. Twenty persons were killed and the boat was blown to pieces.

THE PATRIARCH OF ARMENIA has received information of the arrival at Cairo of two Armenian prelates—Sahak and Dimitrios—who had been detained three years in Abyssinia, and who have been released through the intercession of the English Government.

THE REMAINS OF MR. GEORGE EVANS, the master of the steam-tug Edward, in which the boiler exploded with fatal effect on Wednesday week, were recovered from the Thames on Monday morning.

HARVEST OPERATIONS have been begun in several districts in Scotland, and hitherto they have been favoured with fine weather. The accounts to hand are generally that the crop is a fair average.

ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE has been obtained proving that a most extensive system of robbery has been carried on for a long time at the store department of the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, and immediate steps will be taken by the Government authorities to prevent a repetition of these delinquencies.

THE PAPAL NUNCIO in Austria has addressed a severe admonition to the Bishop of Cracow for applying to the persons who imprisoned Barbara Uryk the term "demons," and the Bishop has expressed regret for the violence of his language.

THE formal inauguration of the Wallace Monument is to take place, with due formality, on Sept. 11, the anniversary of the Battle of Stirling Bridge.

THE Egyptian Government exploratory expedition to Lake Nyanza, &c., under the direction of Sir Samuel Baker, will leave Alexandria on Sept. 1.

ANOTHER POWDER-MILL EXPLOSION is reported from Hounslow. No lives were lost, but three men were seriously injured.

THE PARISH AUTHORITIES OF GREENWICH have determined to construct a new dead-house, with proper accommodation for making post-mortem examinations. It is hoped that this example will be followed by other parishes.

THE FUNERAL OF LORD JUSTICE SELWYN took place on Monday afternoon at Nunhead Cemetery. The shops in Richmond, where the deceased Lord Justice and his family had resided many years, were almost universally closed, and the bells of the churches tolled during the afternoon. The funeral cortege was preceded for some distance out of Richmond by several of the county magistrates for the division and many of the leading inhabitants.

THE PHYSICIAN OF THE PRUSSIAN ADMIRALTY has proposed the adoption by all civilised States of a flag of distress, to be used on every occasion, both in peace and war. It is suggested that the flag should be of a dark yellow colour, with a red cross upon it.

A GREAT ORANGE DEMONSTRATION was held at Hilton Park, Clones, last Saturday. Thirty thousand persons were present, representing 140 lodges. Resolutions were passed condemning the Government for dismissing the High Sheriff of Monaghan, also condemning the Irish Church Act and the Party Processions Act. There was no serious disturbance.

THREE HAYSTACKS on the premises of Mr. John Johnston, a farmer and wheelwright at Highgate, were set on fire last Saturday night, and considerable damage was done before the flames could be subdued. This is not the first incendiary fire which has occurred recently in the northern suburbs. The last was at the Manor Farm, Finchley, and the damage done was £1000.

THE FESTIVAL connected with the presentation of the Dunmow fitch was celebrated at Braintree on Monday. Two married couples, one residing in Cornwall-road, Victoria Park, and the other in Rydon-crescent, Clerkenwell, were successful in winning this singular gift.

MR. EDWARD BARROW, who for nearly forty years has been a member of the literary staff of the *Morning Herald*, is dead. The deceased gentleman was seventy-one years of age, and in his earlier years was attached to the *Mirror of Parliament*, of which his late brother, Mr. John Barrow, was the editor, and upon which he had for one of his collaborators his nephew, Mr. Charles Dickens.

THE INTERNATIONAL YACHT-RACE for the French Emperor's yacht terminated on Tuesday, the course being from Hyde to Cherbourg and back. It was won by the Guinevere (Commodore C. Thellusson); the second, the Egeria; and the third, Mr. James Gordon Bennett's crack yacht, the Dauntless, which came in about three hours after the winner.

A STORY IS TOLD IN A PARIS PAPER of a new method for recovering one's debts. The other day a crowd gathered, in the vicinity of the Odéon, round a girl with a wooden leg, whom a gentleman at an adjoining window was apostrophising with loud cries and gesticulations. It turned out that the girl was a washerwoman who had gone to the gentleman to ask for payment of her bill, and, finding that the money was not forthcoming, she had seized her customer's wooden leg, which was lying in a corner, and had walked off, declaring that she would not return it till she was paid.

THE LAST PARTY OF EMIGRANTS to be sent out to Canada during the present year by the British and Colonial Emigration Fund was dispatched on Tuesday evening. Over 200 persons left the Victoria Docks in the steam-ship Dacia. In addition to these, and 900 emigrants previously sent from the East-End, the committee of the fund have assisted over 3000 persons to emigrate during the past six months, making in all over 4000.

THE "FORESTERS' FETE," one of the great events of the year at the Crystal Palace, took place on Tuesday. The weather was fair and pleasant, and a vast concourse of the fraternity and their friends assembled. Robin Hood, Maid Marian, Friar Tuck, Little John, and their ancient confères had many representatives, and the revels, although "fast and furious," were brought to a close without accident or misadventure.

A CONGRESS of the Catholic Associations of Germany is to be held at Dusseldorf on the 6th of next month, and is to last three days. Among the subjects to be discussed are—Education, the Relations between Church and State, the Working Classes, &c. It is also proposed to establish an organisation against the "irreligious" press.

THE FIRST SPANISH PROTESTANT CHURCH in Chili was opened on June 29. The new church is designed for preaching in the Spanish language to a congregation of native worshippers, gathered by the Rev. Mr. Gilbert. After the singing of a Spanish hymn the Rev. Dr. Trumbull delivered a sermon, and a Chilean gentleman, Mr. J. M. Ibanez, followed in a spirited address to his countrymen composing the congregation. The attendance was very numerous, and the people displayed the utmost attention—not the slightest interruption or signs of intolerance manifesting themselves. The singing was sustained by a sweet-toned harmonium, and not a few joined in it.

BEFORE A JURY at New Orleans a woman who was on her trial adopted a line of defence which must have given infinite gratification to the married gentlemen present. She was accused of having thrown from her window a pail of boiling water on the head of a person passing underneath. The defence was simple, pitiful, and unwavering. She adhered to it throughout with immutable consistency. She limited her defence to the reiterated assertion that she poured the boiling water out of the window because she thought the person passing below was—"Only her husband!"

TRADE OUTRAGE IN BIRMINGHAM.—For some time past the men belonging to the Brushmakers' Society in the employ of Messrs. Ludford and Company, of the Oxford-street Works, have manifested signs of dissatisfaction, owing mainly to the introduction in certain branches of the trade of female labour. Messrs. Ludford discharged some of their workmen, who happened to be society men; and in leaving several of these men made use of threats. In view of the threatened danger, the firm obtained the assistance of the police, and the manufactory has since been carefully watched at night. Mr. Daniel Maloney, one of the foremen, while going home, was brutally attacked near Kea-street by two men coming in an opposite direction, who were quickly joined by several other men, apparently acting in concert. One of the two men before mentioned struck Maloney a severe blow in the face, which stunned him for the moment, and just as he was recovering himself one of the others dealt him a terrific blow across the forehead with a "knuckleduster," inflicting great injuries. Several members of the gang kicked the man when on the ground, and immediately decamped. A reward has been offered for the capture of the offenders.

THE LOUNGER.

THE London papers, though space is valuable whilst Parliament is sitting, with one accord have published reports of the doings of the Wesleyan Conference at unprecedented length. This was the right thing to do. By-the-by, I may as well here notice the curious fact that the Wesleyans have never called themselves a Church, but always a society; thus in their hymn-book we see the pages headed "The society praying," "The society giving thanks." The reason why they have never called themselves a Church is not far to seek. The Wesleyans never formally seceded from the Church; and even to this day they do not like to be called Dissenters. Well, the Wesleyan Society is a very large and influential body, and it is well that the public should know more about them and their doings than has hitherto been known. Would it be out of place to describe their ecclesiastical polity in this column? I do not think it would; and as a succinct description cannot but be interesting to your readers, I will give one. The whole of the country is mapped out into districts; each district is divided into circuits. At the head of a circuit there is a superintendent. Each superintendent has under him as many preachers as the circuit requires. By preachers I mean ministers ordained, not local or lay preachers, as these have no place in the governing body. At the head of the district is a chairman, who presides over the district meetings of representatives sent by the circuits. Then above all is the Conference. The legal number of the Conference is one hundred. Vacancies in this body are filled up by the remainder. Representatives chosen at the district meetings are allowed to take part in the proceedings, and even to vote in Conference. But the ultimate court of appeal is the legal one hundred. I must now mention the system of classes, a very important feature of Methodism. The youths of the society are divided into classes; each class consists generally of twelve members, over whom there is a class leader, whose duty it is to meet his pupils once a week and converse with them on their spiritual condition, and receive the weekly penny which every member is expected to pay. This, then, is the organisation of the Wesleyan Society. The class leaders report to the preachers, the preachers to the superintendents, the superintendents to the district chairman—the district chairman to the Conference. It will be observed that this is a Presbyterian form of Church government; but, unlike all other Presbyterian systems, there is in it no lay element. No layman has anything to do with the government of the society. The only test of membership is that which John Wesley recognised—viz., "a desire to flee from the wrath to come." Whether the ministers have to sign or profess their belief in a prescribed formula when they are ordained I know not; but that they are rigorously bound to obey the laws of Conference and to teach the Wesleyan creed and no other is well known. Indeed, there is no Church in the world that allows so little latitude to its preachers as this. A Wesleyan minister named Ransom lately taught that the Christian Sabbath stands upon a different basis to that of the Jewish. For teaching this he was arraigned before Conference and virtually expelled from the ministry. A minister named Hughes, in a book which he wrote, doubted the advantages of class-meetings. He was a superintendent. The Conference promptly brought him to the bar, and punished him by degrading him to the ranks. This is discipline with a vengeance. The discipline of the Romish Church is mild compared with that of the Conference. One cannot, though, charge the Conference with acting illegally. Messrs. Hughes and Ransom entered the Wesleyan ministry, doubtless, with a fair knowledge of the laws which they by entering bound themselves to obey. But that any educated man, any man capable of thinking, should voluntarily submit to such rule as this is to me an amazement. This system has lasted more than a hundred years; but that it will last much longer I hold to be an impossibility. This rigorous discipline, this repression of thought, must ultimately drive every man capable of thinking out of the society. Strain out as with a sieve all intellectual life, and then the end will be nigh. Mr. Hughes doubts the advantages of the class system. Well, so do many more Wesleyans, as I happen to know. I mean laymen, of course. Indeed, from the Conference itself there came a groan over the laxity of attendance of the members at these classes; and this laxity will be more conspicuous every year, as the members of the society become better educated. Fancy a really cultured man talking before twelve people, most of them presumably very ignorant, about his experience, introducing, as it were, strangers into the very holy of holies of his soul! A really educated, religious man would shrink from this as from pollution. Many years ago I saw that the dry rot had got into the system, and I am not sorry to learn that it is spreading. A friend of mine who was long a Wesleyan, but left the society several years since, said to me, in answer to a question about class meetings, "I do not believe that any member of a class ever did reveal to the meeting his secret spiritual struggles;" and one would at once say, certainly not. He must be a clever man who could do it, and none but a well-to-do man would say what—would do it.

There is another class of men attached to the society whom I must notice: I mean the chapel trustees. These belong not to the hierarchy, but they are very important men, as you will see when I have explained their position. When a Wesleyan chapel is built, it is at once conveyed to the Conference free of all charge. Probably a large sum of money was borrowed to build that chapel. But, though the chapel is conveyed by deed to the Conference, the Conference is not answerable for the debt; nor can the creditors seize the chapel, nor even hypothecate the pew rents. Who are, then, responsible for the debt? you will ask. The answer is, the trustees, jointly and severally. Now, this is very curious. It is strange that men should lend money on personal security so readily as they do; but still more strange that there should be found men who will make themselves and their heirs for ever personally responsible. But men are readily found to do this. And now let me point out the effect of this system. The outstanding debt incurred for building chapels is enormous—more than a million sterling, I am told. Most of the chapels are in debt, and what is the consequence? Why, in almost every chapel you have five or six individuals, most of them men of some influence in the town, who are bound under heavy responsibilities—penalties we might call them—to exert themselves to fill the chapel and get the pews all let; for if the proceeds are not sufficient to pay the interest on the debt, the trustees must make up the deficiency. But, now, enough of Wesleyanism; not, however, too much, for really this Wesleyan system is a strange phenomenon, and worth studying. One word: I am not a Wesleyan, and never was. I have simply studied the system from outside.

A correspondent of a Liverpool paper says, "I hear that the zeal for retrenchment is so strong in one member of the Administration—one who has effected more and better economies than any other of the new officials—that he was with difficulty brought in by the whip to vote against Mr. Ryland's motion on diplomatic charges. He has most positively said that, unless Ministers do retrench, as he wishes and believes that they might, he will leave them and denounce them from the back benches. If he did, there would be a sensation. Yes, of course, there would; but he won't. The paragraph obviously points to Mr. Baxter. Well, Mr. Baxter is an honest and impulsive reformer. But, on reflection, Mr. Baxter will see—has seen, indeed—that the Government cannot undertake too much at once. It has been in office about seven months, and in that short period it has achieved more wonders than ever Government did before, and it will go on conquering and to conquer. But it must have time. Then it must be remembered that Gladstone could not put into every department such energetic reformers as Mr. Baxter. Many such men are not to be found; and, besides this, there were certain men whom it was impossible to pass by. Lord Clarendon, our Foreign Minister, was one of these. Though he is on the verge of seventy, and not at all likely to inaugurate extensive reforms in his department, Gladstone was obliged to appoint him, if for no other reason than this—he could not, with decency, pass by so old and consistent a supporter. But there is another reason. We have now five principal Secretaries of State.

Of these it is usual to have three in the Commons and two in the Lords. By Act of Parliament, one of the principal Secretaries of State must be a peer. It is usual, though, as I have said, to have two in the Upper House; and, this being so, of course Lord Clarendon could not but be selected. But, patience! All will in time come right. Meanwhile, until the time comes, there must be no impatience of Ministerial discipline. Mr. Baxter, by voting against Ryland's motion, did not vote against diplomatic reform, but only for the postponement of the consideration of the subject to a more suitable time. Mr. Bright when he took office had to consider all this, and he told his constituents that they must bear with him if they saw him occasionally voting differently to what he had been accustomed to do. It must be so, otherwise government could not be carried on. Mr. Bright, when he votes against the motions of earnest reformers, does not vote against the reform which they advocate, but simply says—"See, our hands are full. Let us do the work before us, pass this Irish Church Bill, this Bankruptcy Bill, this Public Schools Bill, &c., and in turn we shall take up your reform." Someone, when the Indian Budget was before the House, moved a resolution denouncing the salt tax and the opium trade, whereupon Mr. Bright said, "Everybody knows my opinion upon this subject; but we cannot settle the salt and opium questions to-night, nor this Session. I therefore hope the hon. member will withdraw his motion and let us get on with business." And the hon. member wisely withdrew his motion.

The permanent Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. G. A. Hamilton, vacates his office, to take a place in the Irish Church Commission, and reports says that Mr. Maguire will have the place. Mr. Maguire is brother-in-law of the Irish Attorney-General, Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Gladstone's most able lieutenant in the Irish Church struggle; and if Mr. Sullivan should ask for the place for his brother-in-law, Mr. Gladstone could hardly say no. I confess at first I was surprised to hear that Maguire is disposed to take a place which would involve his retirement from Parliament. But he has been in Parliament seventeen years, and, though not rich, has made, no doubt, great pecuniary sacrifices to keep there, and now not unnaturally looks for some reward. The high-toned patriotism, though, which Mr. Maguire has professed should be made of sterner stuff. Some say that the Secretaryship of the Treasury will not be his reward, but the Chief Commissionership of the Irish Poor Law. The salaries of the two places are alike—viz., £2000 a year; but the Treasury Secretary's task is the hardest, as that is all desk-work.

Your readers are probably aware—some of them, it may be, to their sorrow—that the Albert Life Assurance Company is in difficulties, in fact, is insolvent. This result is another instance of the insecurity offered by insurance companies to policy-holders, annuitants, &c.; but upon that point I need not dilate, as it has been fully discussed of late, and, indeed, formed the subject of legislation in the late Session of Parliament. There is, however, one matter connected with this company deserving attention, which, so far as I have seen, has not yet been noticed. The Albert Company, it seems, had bought up the businesses of some twenty-two other companies; and, of course, the policies originally effected with those other companies are now worth no more than their share of the assets of the Albert will cover. Now, what I wish to call attention to is this, could not the policy-holders in those absorbed companies fall back upon the directors of their several institutions who were in office at the time the policies were taken out? In other words, can a company transfer its responsibilities to others whenever it pleases, without consulting or obtaining the consent of the holders of policies? To make my meaning clear, let me state a case, the facts of which are within my own knowledge:—A gentleman, whom I will call A., effected a policy on his life, nine years ago, with a company which may be indicated by the letter B.; and he did so in consequence of knowing and having confidence in the directors and others concerned in the management of that company. After paying his premiums for some years, he received notice that his payments were in future to be made at such and such a place, instead of where they were wont to be received. He acted as directed; the new office was that of the Albert Life Assurance Company; and, of course, his policy forms part of the overwhelming liabilities of that concern. No other notification of the transfer was ever given to him; his consent was never asked; he never concurred in the change, unless the payment of premiums at the new address be assumed to constitute concurrence and consent. Now, what I suggest is this, that A. and others so situated have a right of redress against the directors of the company with which they originally insured for any loss they may sustain by the insolvency of the Albert, and that they should join together to try the question in a court of law. The hardship of the case is obvious, and the moral wrong sustained palpable; and surely for such a wrong there ought to be a legal remedy. It might, perhaps, be too much for an individual policy-holder to undertake the task single-handed, but all parties affected might join to defray the costs of an action, and so vindicate their rights; or, even if they fail to obtain redress in their own persons, at all events they would obtain an authoritative decision as to company and directorial liability under circumstances like those stated, which would be of service as a guide to the public in the future.

A curious and unfortunate mistake occurs in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of Wednesday. In that day's number of your contemporary there is a rather severe notice of a volume of poems recently published. With the criticism I have nothing to do; but unluckily the author of the book is described as "Wraxall" Hall, instead of "Wraxall" Hall—a change of orthography which will probably be more painful to Mr. Hall in his personal than the critique is to him in his literary capacity. I may also mention another strange blunder that has been repeated in several of the daily papers lately. A paragraphist, who writes about the foot-and-mouth disease among cattle, persists in talking of "Surrey and suburbs" (the phrase has been several times repeated). Now, as Surrey is a county and not a city, it is difficult to understand how it can have suburbs.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

If popularity immediately followed excellence, Björnson, the Swedish poet and novelist, would sell by scores of thousands in England. His "Arne," exquisitely translated by Augusta Plesner and Susan Rugely Powers, and published a very few years ago by Strahan and Co., is one of the loveliest bits of poetic sublimity that ever issued from a human brain. Yet I have but little hope that it sold well. "Can you read 'Arne' with delight?" is a test question that would decide a great many points in people's character; and that it should not be as popular, at least, as any of Frederica Bremer's stories (to all of which it is much superior) can only be attributed to the extreme delicacy of its humour and the choice innocence of its poetry. I fear there is little to be hoped for a little play by this writer, "The Newly Married Couple" (Lacy), translated by Mr. Theodor Seefeldt, and hastily mentioned, on a previous occasion, in this column. It has some of Björnson's characteristic merits, it is interesting to minds of a certain stamp, and it appears to be well and carefully translated; but it has no movement. It may be said to be founded upon the weaning from her parents of a young wife and the equilibration of her relations with them and her husband. The dialogue is in itself good; but there is no story such as fits a piece for the stage. A German audience might enjoy it. I should enjoy it myself, if well acted; but who, on the English stage, would devote the necessary study to make interesting to a select public a little drama in which there is not a single "situation"? On the whole, I should doubt if Björnson could ever produce an acting play.

In "Sketches in the House of Commons," in *London Society*, there are some amusing things—one capital anecdote of an outsider, who walked unchallenged into the House of Commons one day, sat for half an hour without being found out, and retired unmolested. Is the story true? I hope it is more true than the writer's assertion, that "the natural result of Mr. Bright's

oratorical career is to set race against race, class against class, order against order." As Dr. Johnson said to the young lady, "Fiddle-de-dee, my dear." By all means, again, let us respect Sir Roundell Palmer's disinterestedness; but let us also remember that he is only biding his time, and that he is making an enormous income in the meanwhile. The pen which wrote "A Harp Accompaniment"—a sketch of a day at the Welsh Harp, Hendon—is always a welcome one, but I should like to see it better employed.

Mr. Anthony Trollope has commenced the publication in a serial form of a new novel, entitled the "Vicar of Bulhampton," which promises to be in the author's best manner. We have, of course, a clergyman (an inevitable character in all Mr. Trollope's books), who gives a title to the story; but whether he shall turn out to be the hero is a point that seems doubtful, even to the author. This clergyman, the Rev. Frank Fenwick by name, is of the best school of Mr. Trollope's parsons—that is, he is a quiet, country-gentleman sort of individual, who prefers teaching religion by his own example rather than in the ordinary set pulpit style; he is, moreover, something of a "muscular Christian," ready to grapple with a burglar—or any number of burglars—when occasion requires; and, altogether, promises to be a very agreeable personage. Of the other characters in the story I have not seen enough to be able to judge; but the heroine, Mary Lowther, I fear, is a bit of a prude. It is unfair, however, to make up one's mind on the slight acquaintance we yet have with the lady; and therefore I will say no more of the book at present, except that it is written in Mr. Trollope's usual pleasant style, and, I think, is likely to prove interesting.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THE CHARING CROSS, formerly sacred to Mr. Woodin's remarkable rites as the Polygraphic Hall, and recently opened by Messrs. Bradwell and Field as a home for operetta, drama, and burlesque, has again changed hands, after an unsuccessful season, and is now held by Miss Fowler, a young lady who has played in burlesque during the last eighteen months at the Royalty and Gaiety Theatres. Miss Fowler retains Mr. Cheltenham's successful drama "Edendale," which, with a few variations in the cast, is still attractive, and she has supplemented it by a new burlesque, called "Very Little Faust and More Mephistopheles," by Mr. Burnand. The piece is handsomely dressed, and has some pretty music (which, however, is very badly sung by all except Miss Hughes), but the scenery is simply disgraceful. The piece itself has little claim to literary merit; and it certainly is not well acted, except again by Miss Hughes, who looked charmingly as Marguerite; while the delivery of her lines was, of course, everything that could be desired. But, it is no use to blink the stern truth that the lines themselves were not good, and no intelligence on the part of the artist could redeem them. Miss Fowler effectively dressed as Mephistopheles, and gave her words neatly; and Mr. George Temple, as Faust, was sufficiently satisfactory. Mr. George Beckett, the leading low comedian of the company, is, at present, irrepressible. Perhaps, in time, he will learn to keep in his proper place. The other parts were played by showy young ladies who looked pretty enough in their handsome dresses. Several liberties have been taken with the plot of the drama: not the least of these is the representation of Mephistopheles in a state of apotheosis! Several of the songs and dances were encored; and Mr. Burnand bowed his acknowledgments in front of the curtain. It is a pity that Mr. Burnand, who can do so well, should write so carelessly. It is difficult to believe that the author of "Happy Thoughts" and of the burlesque of last Wednesday are one and the same man.

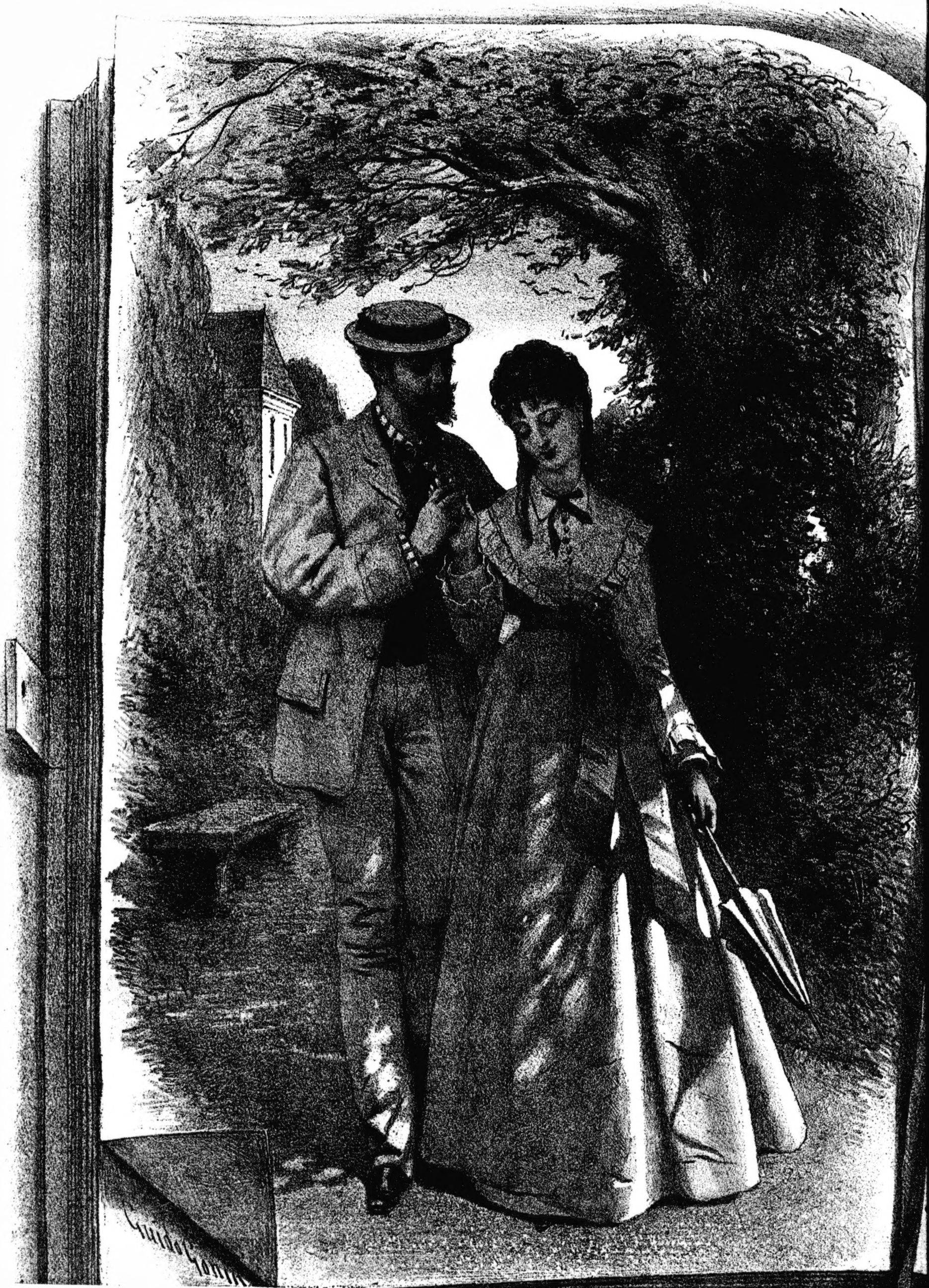
THE GAITEY programme undergoes an entire change next Saturday. "Dreams" and "Robert the Devil" (burlesque) are to be revived, Miss Henrade and Miss Rance playing respectively the parts lately played by Miss Robertson and Miss Rachel Sanger.

THE GLOBE opens in October with a new comedy by Mr. Robertson. THE PRINCESS'S has a piece by Mr. Boucicault in preparation; and Mr. Boucicault, in conjunction with Mr. Byron, produces a piece at the ADELPHI next month.

ORANGEISM.—The members of the Schomberg Orange Lodge held their monthly meeting, at the Palatine Hotel, Birkenhead, on Monday evening—W.M. Brother Harper in the chair, and D.M. Brother Garnet in the vice-chair. The worthy chaplain, Brother Shaw, having read a portion of God's Word, the usual monthly business was proceeded with. At the close of the business Brother Johnson read the coronation oath as taken by her Majesty on ascending the throne, and reminded the brethren of the shameful manner in which that oath had been violated. He said that their obligations to the Queen were now at an end, and for the future no toast was to be drunk to the health of the Queen or the Prince of Wales. The lodge then closed in due form, when refreshments were served, and the W.M., on rising, said:—"Worthy Deputy and Brethren,—We hitherto have been a political as well as a religious society. Now things are very different. For the future we are a religious society only, and in our organisation we must know and support our friends only, in independence of any State or power, to the best advantage of the Protestant reformed religion. I have always been brought up in loyalty, and taught to consider as a most heinous crime any departure from the respect accorded to our Royal ruler; but, since she so far forgot herself as to sign that rascally Robbery Bill (as did also the Prince of Wales), my allegiance is at an end ('Hear, hear,' and cries of 'Same here'). Therefore I propose to you the health and success of our sailor Prince, 'The Duke of Edinburgh.'" Next followed the charter toast—viz., "The pious, glorious, and immortal memory of William III., Prince of Orange;" and also many songs and recitations, till a proper hour for separating.

REWARDS FOR BRAVERY.—On Tuesday, at a meeting of the Royal Humane Society, the society's silver medal was unanimously voted to Lieutenant R. C. Hart, Royal Engineers, for saving Louis Cousin, a Frenchman, at Boulogne. Mr. Baker, late of the 60th Regiment, was awarded the bronze medal of the society for assisting in the rescue. The silver medal was also presented to Mr. B. N. West, R.N., navigating Sub-Lieutenant of her Majesty's gun-boat Bustard, for saving John Arthur Kitt, assistant engineer, who attempted suicide at Takan, China, on a dark night in November last. The bronze medal was given to William H. Rowe for saving ten persons, whose boat was upset by a steam-ship in Plymouth Sound on the 28th ultimo; to Captain H. C. Whitlock, for saving two men who were carried out while bathing at Cleveleys, Fleetwood, Lancashire, on the 10th ult.; to Patrick Doyle, for saving William Walsh, who fell into 14 ft. of water at Lavitt's Quay, Cork, on the 17th ult.; to Henry Laird Jones and William Buckley, for saving four persons who were overcome and rendered insensible by foul air in an engine pumping-shaft 10 ft. deep, at Liverpool, on the 15th ult.; to Lieutenant C. Laprimandaye, R.N., of her Majesty's ship Lord Warden, who, with the assistance of Edwin Ryder (who received the thanks of the society inscribed on vellum), saved William Keast, who fell overboard in Malta harbour; to William Dow, an able seaman of her Majesty's ship Penelope, for saving William Way, who fell into eight fathoms of water at Harwich, on the 2nd inst.; to George Midland, a boy fourteen years of age, for saving Frank Smerdon, whose boat was capsized in the sea at Semaphore, South Australia, on June 24 last year; and to Oliver Davey, for saving Mr. N. Lobb, who was carried out to sea while bathing at Bude Harbour in from 15 ft. to 20 ft. of water, on the 21st ult.

THE ST. PANCRAS GUARDIANS.—An inquest was held on Tuesday, by Dr. Hardwick, at the College Arms, St. Pancras, on the body of James Crew, aged fifty-eight, an inmate of the infirm ward of St. Pancras Workhouse, whose death, it was alleged, had been accelerated by the conduct of the guardians. Deceased's wife said that her husband had been ill for some time, and for the last three weeks had been in the infirm ward of the workhouse. On Saturday last she heard that he was dead, and she believed that his death had been caused by threats held out by the committee that his goods would be sold. Witness had offered to take half the amount of relief they had received; but the guardians told her that, if she did not sell her home up, they would do so for her. Mr. Watson, a guardian, said he had never known of such a case. Dr. Joseph Hill, the house surgeon, said that the deceased had received every attention. Witness had about 600 inmates to attend to, which was about six times as many as were in the University College Hospital, where there were three physicians and three surgeons. In reply to a juror, Dr. Hill subsequently said that he could not say that the death was owing to the remarks to deceased by the committee, but that it might have been accelerated by worry and anxiety. The Coroner, in summing up, said the principle of the poor law was that relief should be given only in cases of destitution; and he had known cases where even a few shillings that had been put by in a savings-bank had been appropriated by guardians. The present guardians were therefore only carrying out the law in wishing to dispose of the goods of deceased. The jury returned a verdict of "Death from apoplexy," and added to it the opinion that "a more judicious and temporary or permanent system of out-door relief for the honest poor would be a more economical system to rate-payers, and more in accordance with the requirements of the poor than compelling them to become permanent inmates of the workhouse."





TWO PAGES IN A WOMAN'S LIFE.

YES; the two pages, as most of our readers will think. The first is not quite in the midst of the book, but just in that fascinating part of the volume where, like most stories, the plot is intensely interesting and the future of the heroine has yet to be determined. Those first pages—the bread-and-butter and pinafore chapters—are promising enough, but they are rapidly turned over; the school episode, with its little flirtations, and breaking-up parties, and St. Valentine's Days; its black boards and French exercises; its milk-and-water breakfasts and Dutch cheese suppers; its morning practising in a frozen drawing-room; its stolen visits for letters left at the pastrycook's, and read by artfully-concealed rushlights when the junior pupils were supposed to be asleep, and only the friend of a confiding bosom kept awake listening to the final creaking of the door that inclosed the Misses Walkintwo's bed-chamber—this affords ample entertainment of a preparatory and freshly-awakened sort; but there comes another actor on the scene, and, behold, the entire plot is changed, hurried on feverishly, or slowly allowed to languish alternately. Do not hurry it, sweet maiden. "Gather ye rosebuds while ye may;" but don't pluck them hastily and tear your soft fingers with the thorns! What, you have reckoned your future responsibilities already, and still are against long courtships? Well, go your ways then. It is the old, old path after all; the page lies open before you, only be sure that you turn it aright: thoughtfully, seriously, prayerfully, and then promptly, equally without lingering fear and reckless hurry; so may your early wedding path from the church be strewn with flowers, emblems of those brighter buds of promise that unfold under the maternal care, to bless and sanctify your life's story to the end.

THE ANGLO-FRENCH TREATY OF COMMERCE.

THE following is an extract from the report of Mr. West, Secretary of Embassy at Paris, dated July 1, and just published by the Foreign Office:—

"With regard to the import and export of cotton and woollen stuffs, and the general state of the trade, I give the following information, which is, I believe, correct:—

"In the five eastern departments there is capital invested in spinning machinery to the amount of £8,000,000. The trade employs 60,000 workmen, whose wages, it is calculated, are sufficient for the daily support of 150,000 people. Their labour is valued at £6,600,000. The printing fabrics in the same districts number sixteen, employing 10,000 workmen, who receive wages which support 25,000 persons. The annual value of the proceeds is calculated at £1,760,000. Half the produce of these two branches of industry is exported and half is consumed in the country. Soon after the treaty of commerce with England came into force, the printing interest represented that their exports would be quadrupled if the free entry of foreign tissues, subject to re-exportation, were accorded. The Government accordingly granted their temporary admission free of duty. Now it must be remarked that it is this temporary admission of foreign tissues which was the subject of all the violent language against English competition, which was used by Protectionist deputies in the debate of April 17 last. A measure which the trade itself induced the Government to adopt for its benefit is all at once denounced as the cause of its ruin, English competition is stigmatised as pillage, and the deputies of the departments which so urgently pressed for it are those who now so loudly demand its abrogation. Whilst admitting that the temporary admission of foreign tissues was granted at the request of the native manufacturers, it is incidentally stated that the outbreak of the American War at that moment rendered all competition impossible. The sudden cessation of the supply of the raw material paralysed the trade; but, instead of fairly admitting this as one of the principal causes of the prevailing distress, it is sought to attribute it solely to the treaty with England and to a measure adopted at the suggestion of its opponents. It is further stated that the French market is inundated by Swiss tissues, which are produced at a lower price than French ones, and thus the prices of Zurich regulate the French market. Notwithstanding, therefore, the outcry against the English treaty as the sole cause of the existing distress, its opponents are forced to admit that there are other circumstances wholly unconnected with it which have mainly contributed to it. The Minister of Agriculture and Commerce stated, during the debate on the temporary admission of foreign tissues, and in answer to the assertion that England, having been deprived of the American market, had inundated France with its goods, that France was exporting to the value of £1,600,000 to England of these tissues, while England was exporting to France to the value only of £72,000. He concluded his speech in the following words, which I think it worth while to quote:—"I am not going to allude to the silk trade further than to state that we are exporting to England to the value of £17,040,000. But as regards cotton goods, I maintain that Manchester is right. The export of English goods is inferior to the export of French goods, to such an extent that we are asked to reduce our duties. We must not forget that the treaty of 1860 preserved a duty of 15 per cent for our tissues, and in presence of this duty, England, which admits our tissues duty free, declares she cannot compete with us. When one goes into this question thoroughly, what results? French industry presents a power which is without a rival in Europe. What it lacks is commerce. When it is a question of creating commercial relations, our inferiority becomes apparent. Compare France and England as regards special commerce ("commerce spécial"). The European commerce of France is superior to that of England; while our commerce with America, the East, and even Africa, is inferior. It is not a question of colonies, for there are countries without colonies which possess a commerce with America three times as great as that of France. The conclusion, therefore, is that industrial France has nothing to fear; whilst commercial France, as far as distant commerce is concerned, is not in such a favourable position; and it is to this that we ought to turn our attention. It is necessary to give an impulse to the association of capital for commercial enterprise. A greater and more permanent good will result from such a patriotic course, than by augmenting actual difficulties which are of a temporary nature, and by spreading discouragement amongst the population." That these difficulties are of a temporary nature to a certain extent is shown by the value of the import and export of cotton and silk goods during the first four months of the present year, as compared with the same period of 1868, as follows:—Value of Imports: Cottons, 1869, £4,546,280; 1868, £4,692,640; silks, 1869, £4,927,240; 1868, £4,685,400. Value of Exports: Cottons, 1869, £856,920; 1868, £675,560; silks, 1869, £6,855,200; 1868, £5,961,560. The export of cotton tissues, therefore, has increased in four months by £893,640; and these are the very same stuffs which, it was asserted, the towns of Lille, Roubaix, Tourcoing, and Dunkerque could no longer produce, owing to English competition."

AFFRAY BETWEEN BELGIAN AND ENGLISH WORKMEN.—A number of foreign workmen, principally Belgians, are at present employed in building a nunnery at Ditchingham, and a feud has sprung up between them and the English working men in the district which culminated last week in a "free fight." The fracas arose from the Belgians being refused admission to a court of Foresters held at the King's Head, which so exasperated them that they attacked everybody indiscriminately, and a regular hand-to-hand engagement subsequently took place outside the house. Several severe injuries were inflicted on both sides, and the police are in possession of the names of most of the aggressors.

NITRO-GLYCERINE.—One of the last Acts of Parliament, rendered necessary by the recent fearful accident, was passed to prohibit, for a limited period, the importation, and to restrict and regulate the carriage, of nitro-glycerine. Save as mentioned, no person, after the passing of the Act, is to bring into any port or harbour of the United Kingdom, or ship or unship on, from, or near the coasts of any part of the United Kingdom, any nitro-glycerine. By acting in contravention to the provisions the party is to be guilty of a misdemeanour, and liable to be imprisoned, with or without hard labour, for one year; and all nitro-glycerine brought into any port is to be forfeited. New regulations are to be made as to the manufacture, sale, and carriage of nitro-glycerine; and notice of the possession of nitro-glycerine is to be given, and search permitted for the article.

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

THE proceedings of the association commenced on Wednesday, at Exeter, with a meeting at the Guildhall. This is in the nature of a conclave, and therein the administration of the meeting is, it is presumed, discussed and arranged. As usual, at one o'clock, there was a full meeting of the general committee at the Albert Memorial Museum (by-the-way, a handsome ornamental building without, and commodious as well as handsome within). At this gathering most of the notabilities were to be seen. Thus there were of course the president, Dr. Hooker; the president elect, Professor Stokes; Lord Houghton, Sir Stafford Northcote, Sir Harry Verney, Sir W. Tite, Professor Phillips, Professor Hirst, Dr. T. Thomson, Mr. Acland, M.P.; Sir John Bowring, Sir E. Belcher, Mr. Frederick Purdy, Mr. W. Spottiswoode, Mr. T. Webster, Q.C., &c. Conspicuous by his absence was Sir Roderick Murchison, who has always been so prominent a personage at these meetings that it is impossible not to miss him. The business of the meeting was mainly formal, consisting, in the first instance, of the minutes of the last general meeting at Norwich; the report of the work of the council, such as the urging on Parliament, by petition, the establishment of scientific education; the balance-sheet, which showed the funds to be in a satisfactory condition; and the report of the operations of the association at the Kew Observatory. The appointment of the sectional officers for the present meeting and also of the committee of recommendations closed the business. But, before the committee adjourned, Mr. Webster, Q.C., signified that, at the proper time, he should call attention to the system of selecting presidents of the association, hinting that his object was to break a chain of scientific presidents by the alternation in certain districts, such as Lancashire, of personages of rank and influence in the locality. It has probably escaped the recollection of the hon. gentleman that this has been to a great extent the practice of the association, the latest instance being that of the presidency of the Duke of Buccleuch, at Dundee, the year before last.

In the evening the full initiatory meeting of the association took place, in the Victoria Hall. The retiring president, Joseph Dalton Hooker, Esq., M.D., D.C.L., F.R.S., formally resigned the presidency to Professor Stokes, who proceeded to deliver his inaugural address.

The learned president commenced by a full—but not too full—account of the origin and purpose of the association, which may be briefly stated to be the giving of a more systematic direction to scientific inquiry, and the organising of means for the prosecution of researches which require co-operation. Apart from the vast amount of time and thought which has been expended on researches through the medium of the society—which latter, at least, cannot be measured by any overt standard—something may be conceived as to what has been done by means of the pecuniary outlay caused by grants for defraying the expenses of such researches, and which, up to the year 1867, amounted to £29,288 8s. 1d. When it is remembered that these grants were of small amount, and did not include personal expenses, and that many of the researches involved no money grants at all, some idea may be formed of the amount of scientific inquiry which has been evoked under the auspices of the association. Passing to a historical sketch of the most recent progress of science, the president took up the subject of astronomy; and, having traced its progress through Newton, Adams, and Le Verrier, he argued that it might have been supposed, after the brilliant achievements of these discoverers, that the field of astronomical research must have been well-nigh exhausted. But researches which have been carried on within the last few years, even the progress which has been made within the last twelve months, showed how shortsighted such an anticipation would have been, and proof had been given of the value of the union of one science with another, towards which the organisation of this association had greatly contributed. In an elaborate but untechnical disquisition, admirably adapted to an audience which, whatever infusion of savans it might contain, could not be wholly scientific, Dr. Stokes explained how the sciences of astronomy and optics had acted upon and assisted each other, astronomy being indebted to optics for instruments essential to its development, while astronomy had repaid its debt to optics by an important result—namely, the first proof of the finite velocity of light, and the first numerical determination of that enormous velocity. By means of optics, and especially by means of the spectroscope, the motion and the masses of the heavenly bodies had been more fully revealed to astronomical observation. In some detail, the theory of "fixed stars" was next dwelt on, the result being laid down that the term was not wholly exact, inasmuch as it was proved that the stars, including the first and greatest of stars—the sun—or some of them, at least, are moving in various directions of space, and that it is merely the transversal component of the whole motion, or rather of the motion relating to our sun, that is revealed to us by a change in a star's apparent place. In regard to determining whether any particular star is approaching or receding from the sun, astronomy alone was powerless to help researches; and here the science of optics came in in a remarkable manner. By an analogy, almost fanciful, but specially illustrative, between the sound of a bell and the vibratory movement of light, it was shown that, by means of optical science, evidence had been obtained that light consists of a tremor or vibratory movement, propagated in an elastic medium, filling the planetary and stellar spaces—a medium which thus fulfils for light an office similar to that of air for sound. Here opportunity was taken to illustrate the theory propounded by references to the researches in regard to the solar spectrum of Professor Kirchhoff, and the result of observations obtained by the use of a telescope furnished with a spectroscope of high dispersive power by Mr. Huggins, in the solar system, which presented a grand conception of the unity of plan pervading the universe. The president then turned to a recent application of spectral analysis, in the observation of the total eclipse of the sun, Aug. 17, 1868, the use of which was carried out on that occasion by two expeditions from England, to the countries crossed by the line of central shadow, under the auspices of Captain Herschel and Major Tennent. The information received had proved to be most valuable, or, as Dr. Stokes phrased it, "most precious;" and was a special illustration of the reacting on each other of astronomy and optics. This theme was still further worked out elaborately; and, in apologising for dwelling on it so long, the president adduced it as evidence of the value of the object of the institution—that of a union or bringing together of the different branches of science. He congratulated the association on having attained an object for which it had been labouring since 1819—namely, the establishment of adequate instruments for astronomical observations in the southern heavens, which had at least been achieved by the erection of a telescope at Melbourne, Australia, for which a grant of £5000 had been made by the Colonial Legislature, and which is now under the superintendence of Mr. Le Sueur. A very interesting account was next given of the issue of an inquiry by a Royal Commission, appointed at the instance and by the pressure of the association, into the application of gun-cotton to warlike purposes. It had been shown that there are some purposes for which gun-cotton can advantageously replace gunpowder, while its manufacture and storage can be effected with comparative safety. It had been spoken of highly, though only promisingly, for the use of small-arms; though, even in the state of development to which it has attained, its application to great guns seems more doubtful. Next it was stated that, owing to the exertions of the Royal Society, soundings in great ocean-depths had been undertaken by the Admiralty, and dredging had been carried down to more than 2400 fathoms, and animal life had been found in that depth in considerable variety; while, in a depth of 650 fathoms, the existence was established of a varied and abundant Fauna, at depths which had been supposed to be either azoic or occupied by animals of a very low type; besides which the character of the Fauna and the mud brought up was such as to point to a chalk formation actually going on. Diverging to an interesting personal topic, the president told them it was found impossible to make the Chancellor of the Exchequer understand that any contribution should be made

out of the taxes paid by the people towards a memorial to a man like Faraday; and how happily that object would be carried out by the voluntary exertions of those who appreciated his individual and scientific merits. In regard to chemistry, it was stated that no great steps had been made; but an account was given of the discovery of the existence of a red colouring matter obtainable from the wings of the turaco, or plantain-eater, of the Cape of Good Hope, a bird celebrated for its beautiful plumage; and another of the improvement of alizarine, one of the components of madder, which occupies so important a position amongst dye-stuffs of calicoes. Again, it was stated that by the action of hydrochloric acid on morphia a new base was produced, whereby the narcotic properties of morphia were changed, so that it became a powerful emetic, unattended by injurious after-effects. In relation to mechanism, a graceful allusion was made to this being the centenary of the great invention, the steam-engine. The last subject comprised in the address was the branches of science more or less concerned with the phenomena of life, in which the bearing of physical on biological science was dwelt upon. This was argued out with great minuteness and ingenuity, and culminated in a dictum that, admitting the applicability to living beings of the laws which have been ascertained with reference to dead matter, there must be admitted the existence of a mysterious something lying beyond—something *sui generis*, which does not balance or suspend the ordinary physical laws, but works with them, and through them to the attainment of the designed end. What this something which we call life may be is a profound mystery; but, said the president, after working out the chain of secondary causation, "let us take heed that in thus studying second causes we forget not the First Cause." The address was thus concluded:—"When from the phenomena of life we pass on to those of mind, we enter a region still more profoundly mysterious. We can readily imagine that we may here be dealing with phenomena altogether transcending those of mere life in some such way as those of life transcend, as I have endeavoured to infer, those of chemistry and molecular attractions, or as the laws of chemical affinity in their turn transcend those of mere mechanics. Science can be expected to do but little to aid us here, since the instrument of research is itself the object of investigation. It can but enlighten us as to the depth of our ignorance and lead us to look to a higher aid for that which most nearly concerns our wellbeing."

At the conclusion of the address, a vote of thanks was moved to the president by the Earl of Devon, seconded by Sir Stafford Northcote, and carried amidst great applause.

THE EARL OF PORTSMOUTH ON THE WORKING CLASSES.

ON Monday last a large party of excursionists, numbering between 1300 and 1400 individuals, connected with the Working Men's Club and Institute Union, availed themselves of the kind invitation of the Earl and Countess of Portsmouth to pay a visit to their delightful seat, Hurstbourne Park, near Whitechurch, Hants, special trains running from the Waterloo station for their conveyance. On arriving at the park a variety of rural games were indulged in, cricket, however, being the favourite pastime with the men, whilst both sexes freely indulged in dancing during the day on the lawn immediately in front of the principal entrance to the mansion. The Earl and Countess of Portsmouth freely mixed with the company, the Countess taking the utmost interest in the superintendence of the general arrangements for the tea, to which all visitors were freely invited. After the repast, which was served by the ladies of the family and the domestics, a number of prizes, consisting of standard authors, were distributed by his Lordship, assisted by the Countess, immediately before the front entrance to the mansion, to the victors in the various games. At the conclusion the noble Earl addressed a few words to his numerous visitors, assuring them that their meeting that day had been a source of the greatest pleasure both to the Countess and himself, for he had "spent one of the pleasantest days he had seen in the course of his life." He felt satisfied that proof had been given, if proof were wanted, that the working men of this country could assemble in large numbers peaceably and tranquilly to enjoy themselves, and in a becoming way; and they had recently refuted the statements of those who asserted that they were unworthy of the privilege recently bestowed upon them of the elective franchise they now deservedly enjoyed, and he believed they would use that power for the benefit of the nation at large. They were all Englishmen—men of the same race, actuated by the same feelings, and whose feelings found expression in the breasts of the highest and lowest in showing loyalty to the throne of this great country. His Lordship concluded by proposing three hearty cheers for the Queen and Royal family, which having been given, Mr. George Howell (late secretary to the Reform League) proposed a vote of thanks to the Earl and Countess of Portsmouth for the kind way in which the working men of London had been received and entertained. The speaker alluded in thankful terms to the course pursued by the Earl of Portsmouth in politics, and to the beneficial measures his Lordship had assisted to pass. Mr. Gaile (secretary of the Ironfounders' Trade Society) seconded the vote of thanks, stating that he had been requested, on the part of the Hon. Auberon Herbert, to state how much that gentleman regretted being absent on that occasion. He had been prevented attending by an accident which confined him to his residence at Brighton. His Lordship, in acknowledging the vote, remarked that allusion had been made to his political principles. He certainly held those principles referred to; and what was, after all, the true source of power in a nation? It was the popular will, and it was for the people of this country to show by their conduct that they were worthy of those great privileges which they were anxious to possess. Anyone who had witnessed their conduct that day must have been impressed with the thought that these clubs had produced their fruit. They had developed the character of the workman, and the fallacy of the statements made against him during the recent debate on the Reform Bill had been clearly shown. Votes of thanks to the committee, proposed by Mr. Hodgson Pratt and seconded by Mr. John Freedy, together with a short address of congratulation from the youthful Lord Lymington, brought the interesting proceedings to a close. Two trains conveyed the party back to London.

MASS MEETING OF MINERS.—On Monday a mass meeting of South Yorkshire miners was held at Sheffield. The gathering comprised from 4000 to 5000 miners, many of whom are either locked out or are on strike. The president was Mr. Moore, of Sheffield, who, as Mayor of that town, had taken an active part in trying to bring about a settlement of the disputes in the district by means of arbitration. Addresses were delivered by Mr. S. Pimlott, M.P. for Derby, and others. Several resolutions, pledging the meeting to support those locked out, and also regretting that the masters would not settle the differences between them, were carried by the meeting. During the meeting a number of miners proceeded to the Warrens, where several non-unionists resided. After smashing all the doors and windows they entered the cottages and broke everything they could seize, besides making a disgraceful disturbance. At the approach of the police they dispersed.

INCONGRUOUS MEMORIALS IN PROTESTANT CATHEDRALS.—Foreigners have often been surprised at the incongruous exhibition in Protestant cathedrals afforded by the great prominence given to monuments of warriors. Even under the old Jewish dispensation David was not permitted to erect the temple at Jerusalem because he was "a man of blood." How peculiarly inconsistent, then, with the temples of the Prince of Peace must be these abounding monuments of human slaughter. The late Mr. Cobden thus wrote on this subject:—"The war spirit is displayed in our fondness for erecting monuments to warriors, even at the doors of our marts of commerce; in the frequent memorials of our battles; in the names of bridges, streets, and omnibuses; but above all in the display which public opinion tolerates in our metropolitan cathedral (St. Paul's), whose walls are decorated with bas-reliefs of battle-scenes, of storming of towns, and charges of bayonets, where horses and riders, ships, cannon, and musketry realise by turns, in a Christian temple, the fierce struggle of the siege and the battle-field. I have visited, I believe, all the great Christian temples in the capitals of Europe; but my memory fails me if I saw anything to compare with it. Mr. Layard has brought us some very similar works of art from Nineveh, but he has not informed us that they were found in Christian churches."

Literature.

Queen of the Air: being a Study of the Greek Myths of Cloud and Storm. By JOHN RUSKIN, LL.D. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

Survey the habitable globe," as Dryden says, and the human individual will find that he always prefers quarrelling with his enemy rather than with his friend. You have a row with a cabman, assault a policeman, precisely as fancy leads; but for a real quarrel friendship is a necessity. On this principle we propose being least angry with our old and valued literary friend, John Ruskin. When we recall to mind the clearness, as well as the dazzling brilliancy, of "Modern Painters," the "Stones of Venice," and the "Seven Lamps of Architecture," even, it is difficult to conceive how Mr. Ruskin has come to be so foggy as he has been in many of his erratic productions of later years. But, without discussing these, it is only necessary now to discuss "The Queen of the Air" as a fine example of the erratic style which has delights for the favoured few. "The Queen of the Air," personified, is, in Mr. Ruskin's mind, our ancient deity, Pallas Athena, here simply called Athena. Who would have expected this? It is as mystifying a title as the "Notes on Sheepfolds." When, in the freshness of youth, Mr. Disraeli wrote the "Ixion in Heaven," he used for motto or text "Ixion, a King of Thessaly, &c.—Lempriere: Class. Dict. art. Ixion." Now, were Mr. Ruskin to quote Lempriere, "art. Minerva" (for the famous scholar has nothing to say under the headings Pallas and Athena), readers would surely be tempted to think him somewhat mad. And yet there is a poetic method in Mr. Ruskin's madness which is most enchanting. The fault is—and this is his own confession—that very few people can understand that method. He insists that, in plain summary, "Athena" is everywhere—in the heavens, in the earth, in the human heart; and that as such Athena was worshipped by the ancient Greeks. But it was only the cultivated Greek who so understood it—say, in fact, the Ruskinopolis "of the period." The common Greek, he who was only good enough to cement the stones which made up the Parthenon and the Athenæum, had to put up with a far more tangible something to believe in. No skies with mingled colours meaning great things for him. No worship for him of Athena in the earth, tempting from her own heaven, with her magnificent warmth and light, the splendour of plants in shape, in colour, and in perfume. No; the ordinary Greek "cad" had to be perfectly satisfied, and was, with such an idea of Minerva, or Pallas Athena, as Phidias could give him (this we will venture to instance). Ebony, ivory, gold, and precious stones were formed by the highest art ever known into something called Minerva, to satisfy the mob; whilst Glaucus and Diomed kept to themselves all the precious truths which Phidias meant the statue to convey. Such is the meaning, as far as we can gather it from his rambling rhapsodies, of Mr. Ruskin; and we venture to say that, with all his splendour of diction, and with that fascination which is ever to be found in what is all but incomprehensible, a great proportion of Mr. Ruskin's readers will not be shaken in their dear childhood's belief in their Lempriere and their Keightley. From the former Mr. Disraeli raised a brilliant romancette, closely based upon the text; on the other hand, Mr. Ruskin begins by destroying all authority, all foundations, and gives us a very airy, fairy, phantasmagorical castle in the air.

Here, as far almost as Athena herself is concerned, the subject of an eloquent but mystical book may be dropped. But "the greatest is behind." The second half of the book, "Athena in the Heart," is fully as much autobiographical as Shelley's poems. He tells us when he was born—a little over fifty years ago—and he quotes a few lines of his eight-year-old poetry which are really excellent, under the circumstances, and contain the germ of his subsequent political economy. With that political economy, however, no terms can be made. Are we to regenerate England and the world by abolishing machinery, steam, and everything therewith connected, and reverting to pure physical labour? Is it true that "wisdom never forgives"? and does it become a man of Mr. Ruskin's peaceful and profoundly artistic views to insist that Athena, the spirit of the heavens, of the earth, and of the heart, by her mere presence makes all men warriors? To be sure, that same spirit animated some women into warriors the other day, and they nobly began by fighting amongst themselves. Clearly, the spirit of nature is asserting herself, and woman may have much wisdom in having no forgiveness. For all unsuccessful men Mr. Ruskin has no pity; they are pirates, and prey where they best can. This is a new view of political economy, and would abolish our poor laws, once and for all. The Spartans washed their babies in wine, to test if they were strong enough for the battle of life; and an amusing libeller—Lewis Goldsmith ("Secret History of the Cabinet of Buonaparte")—asserts that the great Emperor had all his wounded killed on the field of battle by his own men—as useless incumbrances. Mr. Ruskin certainly does not intrude upon the two ends of life, birth and death; but he inveighs against all the poor and unfortunate as being idle, and leaves the whole matter in a state which can only suggest some form of annihilation for unhappy humanity.

We refrain from giving any more specimens of what we dislike in the most interesting portions of Mr. Ruskin's book. But, of course, being studiously desirous of doing justice to it, it is but fair to say that not only is it interesting, but that it contains personal allusions which are sometimes most affecting. Mr. Ruskin suggests that he is no longer what he was: "My days and strength have lately been much broken, and I never more felt the insufficiency of both than in preparing for the press the following desultory memoranda on a most noble subject." If this is to be taken in the *cale* sense, then many of the above lines may be regretted by their writer.

The Shakespearean Diary and Almanack: A Daily Chronicle of Events, with Appropriate Quotations from the Poet's Works. By G. S. N. London: Stereoscopic and Photographic Company. The uses to which Shakespeare may be put are endless. His writings supply quotations and lessons for all occasions as well as for all time. By the help of the great dramatist, any man may point a moral, adorn a tale, round off a sentence in an after-dinner speech, give interest to a dull leading article (if leading articles ever be dull), if he only know how to choose suitable passages and bring them in at the right place. And in the little brochure before us we have the latest, and by no means the worst, adaptation of Shakespearean literature. "G. S. N." whoever he may be, is evidently thoroughly "up" in his Shakespeare, and has the skill, moreover, to appropriate to individuals and occurrences quotations that are in general exceedingly apt to the use he makes of them. A few specimens may be given. Thus we have, under Jan. 1, The Overend and Gurney prosecution commenced, 1869, "There's theft in 'limited' professions"; Jan. 7, Charles Dickens born, 1812, "More, more! I prythee more"; Jan. 14, Captain Maury born, 1806, "The current that with gentle murmur glides, thou know'st"; Jan. 26, Dr. Jenner died, 1823, "Dost thou forget from what a torment I did free thee?"—a fault which, in these days of anti-vaccination prejudice, is very often committed.—Feb. 6, Jenny Lind born, 1820, "Sings as sweetly as a nightingale"; Feb. 6, Swinburne born, 1843, "Give me an ounce of civet, good apothecary, to sweeten my imagination"—a passage in which readers will, we dare say, discover a spice of sarcasm; Feb. 18, George Peabody born, 1795, "A most incomparable man"; "The heart of generosity"; Feb. 20, Joseph Hume died, 1855, "What is the figure? what is the figure?" March 11, Dr. Livingstone born, 1817, "I have watched and travelled hard"; March 18, Sir Robert Walpole died, 1745, "Much condemned to have an itching palm, to sell and mart your offices for gold"; April 2, Battle of Copenhagen, 1812, "Our indiscretion sometimes serves us well"; April 17, Miss Burdett Coutts born, 1814, "Most bounteous lady"; April 28, Lord Shaftesbury born, 1801, "He hath a tear for pity, and a hand open as day to melting

charity."—May 3, Thomas Hood died, 1815, "A merrier man, within the limits of becoming mirth, I never spent an hour's talk withal"; May 15, Florence Nightingale born, 1820, "Lowliness, devotion, patience, courage"; May 31, Grimaldi died, 1837, "I had rather have a fool to make me merry, than experience to make me sad";—June 3, Cobden born, 1804, "When we stood up about the corn";—July 4, Lord Eldon born, 1751, "Doubtful whether what I see be true"; July 12, Titus Oates died, 1704, "How this world is given to lying"; July 13, Dr. M'Leod born, 1812, "What'er you think, 'Good Words,' I think, are best"; July 22, window tax repealed, 1851, "If Caesar can hide the sun from us or put the moon in his pocket, we'll pay him tribute for light: else, Sir, no more tributes";—Aug. 7, Mrs. Gladstone's Convalescent Hospital established, 1866, "Tis not enough to help the feeble up, but to support him after"; Aug. 12, George Stephenson died, 1818, "A rare engineer";—Sept. 2, General Haynau at Barclay's brewery, 1850, "Thou wear a lion's hide! doff it for shame, and hang a calfskin on those recreant limbs"; Sept. 18, Dr. Johnson born, 1709, "I am Sir Oracle, and when I ope my lips let no dog bark"; Sept. 20, Lord Brougham born, 1778, "Appears sometimes like a lord, sometimes like a lawyer, sometimes like a philosopher";—Oct. 19, Grace Darling died, 1842, "Her valiant courage and undaunted spirit more than in woman commonly is seen"; Oct. 20, Thomas Hughes born, 1823, "He was quick metal when he was a boy"; Oct. 29, James Boswell born, 1740, "The babbling gossip";—Nov. 16, John Bright born, 1811, "He cannot slatter, he! An honest mind and plain,—he must speak truth" (if a sneer lurks in this, Mr. G. S. N. is in the true nevertheless); Nov. 19, Sir Alexander Cockburn appointed Lord Chief Justice, 1859, "It doth appear you are a worthy judge"; Nov. 23, Laurence Sterne died, 1713, "I can easier teach twenty what were good to be done, than be one of the twenty to follow my own teaching";—Dec. 3, Thomas Carlyle born, 1795, "A mint of phrases in his brain. . . . A man of fire-new words"; Dec. 17, Frank Buckland born, 1826, "Toads, bats, and beetles light upon you"; Dec. 21, Benjamin Disraeli born, 1805, "What he is, indeed, more suits you to conceive than me to speak of"—in which passage, whether intended or not, there is a spice of sarcasm, all the more biting because of its truth; Dec. 23, Gladstone born, 1809, "The good I stand on is my truth and honesty"—true again, and not sarcastic. These are only a few out of many equally apt quotations; but we cannot close the list without adding the poet's own epitaph, which falls under April, Shakespeare having been born April 23, 1564, and died April 23, 1616, a double anniversary:—

Every god did seem to set his seal
To give the world assurance of a man.
How noble in reason! How infinite in faculties!
In action how like an angel! In apprehension how like a god!

Before concluding our notice of this ingenious compilation, which we heartily commend to our readers' attention, we may remark that, though "G. S. N." is well read in Shakespeare's works, he does not appear to be over-familiar with Shakespearean literature; else he would not have ascribed to Lord Palmerston—as he seems to do in the note to his "Prefatory Note"—the origination of the notion that Bacon, and not Shakespeare, wrote the plays called by the latter's name. That was an idea entertained long before and by many besides Lord Palmerston, as we fancied every student of Shakespeare knew.

The Intelligence of Animals. From the French of ERNEST MENAULT. London: Cassell, Petter, and Galpin.

The most careless observer amongst mankind must have had some little experience of the intelligence displayed by members of the lower creation, even although his observation has extended no further than his own home circle. It may surprise the respectable father of a family to learn that the household flea, whose highest effort of intelligence seemed exhausted in the preference shown toward the blood of baby over that of its parents during the disturbed hours of conjugal slumber, can be trained to perform duties requiring a very considerable amount of memory and an exercise of faculties that approximate closely to the intellectual. By reading this translation of the intelligent foreigner now under consideration we find that rats, spiders, and such like unpopular characters, are endowed with several of the mental and moral qualifications we are wont to assume belong exclusively to humanity. Driven from the belief that we alone possess foresight, memory, and progressive intellectual development, secured to us by observation of facts, and forced to acknowledge that we share these and the moral sentiment of domestic attachment with the rat that runs in the sewers, let us be merciful to all orders of the inferior creation, seeing that the difference after all between us may be not so much in quality as in degree, and that "the crushed worm" may "feel a pang as great as when a lion dies." Every book that tends to throw light upon the wonders of animated nature is essentially humanising, more especially a book like this of Ernest Menaunt, where minute scientific observation is blended with curious and interesting anecdote calculated to enlist our sympathy for the meanest thing that shares with us the light of life.

Essays on the English State Church in Ireland. By W. MAZIERE BRADY, D.D., Vicar of Donaghpatrick, &c. London: Strahan and Co.

A little while ago, when we first began to read this work, its contents had a living interest and a special importance as bearing on the great question then occupying public attention. But since the abolition of the State Church in the sister island has been decreed by Parliament as well as by the nation, Dr. Brady's book loses somewhat of its attractiveness. To those, however, who wish to have a thorough knowledge of the past history and present state of that Church we commend the work as a perfect storehouse of facts. Dr. Brady proves most conclusively that the Episcopal Church in Ireland was a sham from the beginning, and is no less a sham still. We do not care now to go again into the controversy just closed, and so, commending Dr. Brady's book to the student of history, we devoutly hope that the disestablished and partially disendowed Irish Episcopal Church may be gifted with wisdom to make a wise use of the great opportunities before her, and that she will be in the future, what she has never been in the past, a real instrument for the dissemination of genuine Christianity and the diffusion of peace and goodwill among men.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN IRELAND.—No progress has been yet made, we are told, towards the formation of a representative Church body in Ireland, nor is there an agreement on the principles upon which it should be constituted. The columns of the Protestant press continue to be filled with suggestions on the subject, many of them sufficiently absurd. It appears to be taken for granted that the Bishops will hold their own purely clerical synods, leaving the laity to seek for themselves a mode of representation. The rumour is still current that the Dukes of Leinster and Abercorn are to call a lay meeting on the subject, but nothing has yet been determined upon. There is a very general feeling among the country clergy in favour of "commutation," and it is believed by many Churchmen that on the Church bodies coming into existence, a considerable reduction in the actual number of clergy in charge of parishes will be the first result of the change, and that this will enable a concentration of parishes on a large scale to be effected in the less populous districts.

THE CROPS IN THE EASTERN COUNTIES.—Much has been written of late disparagingly of the crops which are presented to the reaper or the sickle in the harvest of 1869. Either the wheat is too green, the oats too scant in the ear, or the cereals generally only partially developed. The ears of barley are said to be in many cases blind; but it is not more likely that the fact of large holdings of last year's produce blind the eyes of interested factors and millers to the important fact that while we have had more than the average fine weather and a redundancy of heat, we have also experienced a rainfall equal to that of any average year since 1829, a period of forty years. There has certainly been no mildew or hoar frost with their withering influences on the cropping of the country. Wheat, in the marshes next the sea, looks uncommonly well, and it evidences in favour of the coming harvest all that could be desired. Oats in some places are short in the straw, but this is far from being a general complaint, whilst on the wolds and on the fens wheat looks especially well, and in tempting condition for the coming harvest.—*Eastern Morning News*.

THE NEW BANKRUPTCY AND IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT ACTS.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT.

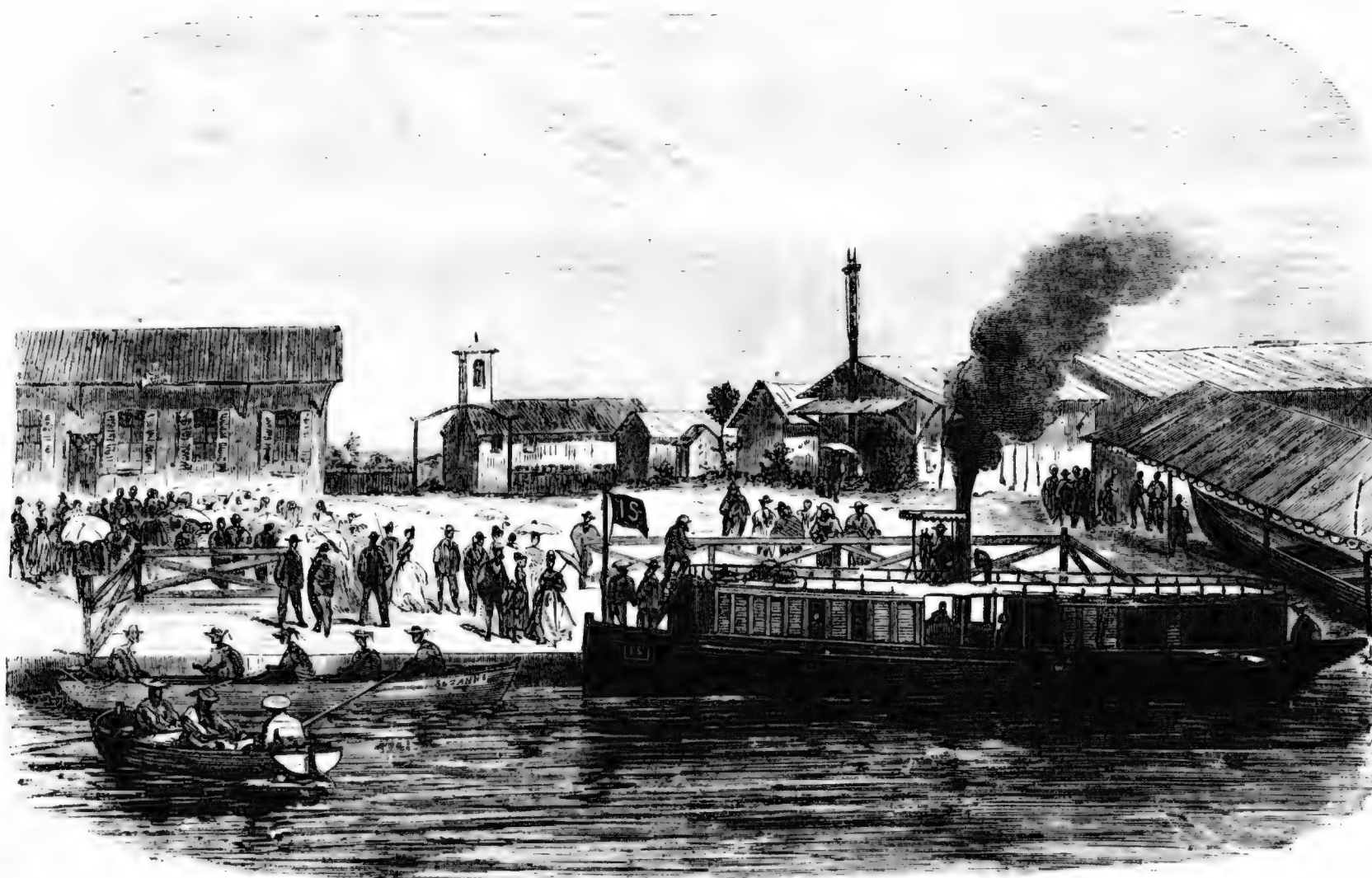
The statute to consolidate and amend the law of bankruptcy extends to fifty-two pages, containing 136 sections and two schedules, taking effect on Jan. 1 next. The Act is divided into eight parts. One of the present commissioners is to be the first chief judge under the new law, and afterwards the office of chief judge is to be filled by one of the judges of her Majesty's superior courts. The officers of the existing London court may be attached to the new court. The Lord Chancellor may by order make provision for winding-up such portion of the business pending in the old court as cannot conveniently be transferred to the new court; and as by the new Act a debtor cannot, it would seem, make himself a bankrupt or obtain a full order of discharge unless by the consent of his creditors, until he has paid 10s. in the pound, it is likely that there will be a rush of business to the old court before the end of the year; that its functions, like the old Insolvent Debtors' Court, may be extended over another year, and probably one of the commissioners be continued, as it is probable the chief judge in chambers and court will have enough to do to eliminate a new practice out of the new and raw materials. The first part of the new law relates to the adjudication by creditors on petitions to the court. A debtor's summons may be granted. After adjudication a trustee is to be appointed to administer the bankrupt's property. The second part has reference to the administration of property. The court may grant or withhold the order of discharge, but the order is not to release from debts or liabilities incurred by fraud, &c. The status of an undischarged bankrupt is that no portion of a debt payable is to be enforced against the property of a bankrupt until the expiration of three years; and if during that time he makes up beyond the dividend 10s. in the pound he is to obtain his order of discharge; and after three years the debt proved is to be in the nature of a judgment debt, and may be enforced against the property of the debtor. The third part of the statute refers to the constitution and powers of the London and the county courts in bankruptcy, and from the latter there may be appeals to the chief judge. The Lord Chancellor, with the advice of the chief judge, may make general rules. There are supplemental provisions in the fourth part, and the fifth part treats of persons having privilege of Parliament. Such a person may be treated in the same manner as if he had no privilege. A seat in the House of Commons is to be vacated by an adjudication in bankruptcy, and the Speaker is to issue a new writ. There are various provisions in the sixth part of the Act on "liquidation by arrangement." The seventh deals with composition with creditors; and the eighth relates to temporary provisions as to the bankruptcy courts. Before the Act comes into force new rules and orders must be framed, and the business under the old and new law perfectly allotted. There is no "pre-audience," as it is called, under the new law to barristers; as, by the 70th section, solicitors may appear before the chief judge or registrars in the London court, either in court or chambers. It is probable that the first chief judge under the new law, unless better accommodation can be obtained, will hold his sittings in Basinghall-street, where the old business will be concluded.

IMPRISONMENT FOR DEBT.

The Act for the abolition of imprisonment for debt, for the punishment of fraudulent debtors, and for other purposes, which is a companion statute to the new Bankruptcy Act, contains twenty-nine sections, comprised in three parts, and it is appropriately called "The Debtors' Act." It is not to extend to Scotland or Ireland, and is to take effect on the same day as the Bankruptcy Act comes into operation, Jan. 1 next, from which time no person is to be arrested or imprisoned for making default in payment of a sum of money, with certain exceptions as to penalties other than in respect of a contract. The exception extends to payment of sums recoverable before justices, to a trustee or other person ordered to pay by a court of equity a sum in his possession or under his control, to an attorney ordered to pay costs for his conduct, or for default in payment for the benefit of creditors of any portion of a salary or other income in respect of the payment of which any court having jurisdiction in bankruptcy is authorised to make an order. The exception to the abolition also extends to default in payment of sums of which orders under this Act are authorised to be made. No imprisonment in the excepted instances is to be for a longer period than one year. With respect to small debts, subject to the prescribed rules, any court may commit for a term not exceeding six weeks, or until payment, any person who makes default in payment of any debt or instalment of any debt due from him in pursuance of any order or judgment of that or any other competent court. That commitment other than by the superior courts of law and equity be exercised only by a judge or his deputy and by an order made in open court, and showing on its face the ground on which it is issued; be exercised only as respects a judgment of a superior court, when such judgment does not exceed £50 exclusive of costs, and be exercised only as respects a judgment of a county court by a county court judge or his deputy. "That such jurisdiction shall only be exercised where it is proved to the satisfaction of the court that the person making default either has or has had since the date of the order or judgment the means to pay the sum in respect of which he has made default and has refused or neglected, or refuses or neglects to pay the same." The debtor and witness may be examined as to his means; the jurisdiction in the superior courts may be exercised by a judge at chambers. The imprisonment is not to satisfy the debt, and the party to be discharged on a certificate that he has paid the debt, and the imprisonment is not to prevent an execution on the goods being taken out. After the commencement of the Act no person is to be arrested on *mesne* process, but, under certain circumstances, the power of arrest is retained where a defendant is about to leave the country. At the commencement of this Act, persons who would be exempted from imprisonment under this Act are to be discharged without the payment of fees, but the rights of creditors on property are preserved. Sequestration against the property of a debtor may, after the commencement of this Act, be issued by any court of equity in the same manner as if the debtor had been actually arrested. The second part of the Act relates to the punishment of "fraudulent debtors," either bankrupts or others, whose affairs are in liquidation, in the concealment or removal of property, or allowing false debts to be proved or making false entries. The period is "four months," and a conviction is to follow, unless the jury is satisfied that he had no intent to defraud. To abscond with property amounting to £20 from England within four months is to be a felony, and the offender is to be liable to two years' imprisonment, with or without hard labour. The obtaining credit by fraud, or making over his property, or concealing or removing property within two months, is to be a misdemeanour, and the offender is to be liable to twelve months' imprisonment, with or without hard labour. The Court of Bankruptcy may order a prosecution on the report of a trustee, Quarter Sessions are to have jurisdiction for offences under the Act. Mayors, aldermen, and town councilmen being declared bankrupts, or compounding by deed, to be disqualified, and justices of the peace becoming bankrupt or making assignments or compositions to be incapable of acting. The third part of the statute has reference to warrants of attorney, cognovit, and orders of judgment. The abolition of imprisonment extends, it would seem, to damages for breach of promise of marriage, seduction, and slander. Persons in prison on Jan. 1, who could not have been arrested had the Act been passed, will have to apply to a judge at chambers.

WILLIAM DIXON, a private in the 7th Fusiliers, was found guilty, at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday, of the murder of a corporal, at Aldershot, about a month since, and sentenced to death. The trial of William Taylor, the soldier who is charged with the murder of a corporal at Plymouth, is postponed, on an affidavit that evidence to prove the prisoner's insanity will be forthcoming.

S C E N E S O N T H E S U E Z C A N A L.



PASSENGERS EMBARKING AT PORT SAID.

THE SUEZ CANAL.

ANYONE visiting the points of embarkation and debarkation on the Suez Canal—the wharf at Port Said, the broad quay at Ismailia, and the landing-place at Suez—would look round in astonishment when he suddenly remembered that within few years only a scrubby desert waste was to be seen at these places, where no activity was possible. Now they are crowded with passengers and merchandise: saloon-steamers for the former, and barges and yebecks, with their long masts and great sails making them look like strange water-birds, loaded with goods in bales, casks, and packages innumerable; while the Oriental, in turban and robe, smokes his pipe and looks on if he be master, or takes off his outer garment and turns to at the work of loading and unloading the barges if he be a common fellah. Our illustrations represent the present aspect of these places, and our readers will at once perceive the change which has

taken place in them since we published our latest accounts of the progress of the canal.

No longer do the accounts of the terrible journey through the deserts alarm the imagination of travellers. Tourists will soon invade the ports of the new water-way, and the stories of travellers have already assumed the proportions of romance. Where the bones of horses and camels bleached in the arid sands, and the unfortunate members of the caravan gasped for water, gardens have sprung up, villas with shrubs and plants dot the landscape, and inclosures blooming like the rose attest the vast change that has been effected. The stories of the burning plains are only to be realised by going purposely out of the way of the path of civilisation that the Sweet-Water Canal has carried through the Sahara; and where the silence of death reigned the sights and sounds of cheerful human activity are to be noted, as

though a new creation had taken place in that old world. No longer on the backs of camels, by a journey which meant dislocation added to all the pangs of sea-sickness, or in vehicles still worse in their effects, but by commodious steam-vessels or by railway to the starting-point the passage of travellers is secured. From Marseilles to Port Said the voyage is easy enough, and then the land of enchantment begins, with the three vast basins, the Avant Port, and the forests of masts which have superseded the aspect of an arid bank washed by the sea and frequented by innumerable flocks of flamingoes, pelicans, and seagulls. Little by little, however, one becomes accustomed to the change, and feels that, tremendous as the operations have been, they have, now they are completed, the appearance of having been produced without effort; and it would almost seem as though the stream of blue water flowed naturally through the desert. Numerous



ARRIVAL OF CARGOES AT SUEZ.

S C E N E S O N T H E S U E Z C A N A L



THE GOODS QUAY AT ISMAILIA.

barges, drawn by vigorous tug-boats, make their way along the channel from Port Said, carrying the merchandise to Suez; and this service, which was commenced two years ago, has been conducted without a single accident, the experience of the pilot and the solid embankments of the canal securing the boats from danger. It is declared that, so far from the sand being washed away as dredge and sediment under the action of the water, the saline properties of the stream solidifies the banks and obviates the necessity for stone supports. The traffic of the vessels covers the quays at Ismailia with all kinds of goods—cotton, in bags and bales, from Zagazig to Port Said, and thence to the coast of Europe; coals and wines, as well as corn and timber, on the voyage to Suez, to which they are taken from Ismailia. The traveller from Port Said to Ismailia goes by railway, and near the Catholic church in the latter place is the railway station, to which the journey, which formerly occupied several days under a broiling sun, is now accomplished in a few hours.

ALARMING FIRE AT PORT SAID.

OUR Engraving represents a very serious accident which has just occurred at Port Said, where the Arab population of that bustling entrepôt on the Suez Canal had made their quarters. About 500 habitations—many of them only frail wooden erections—

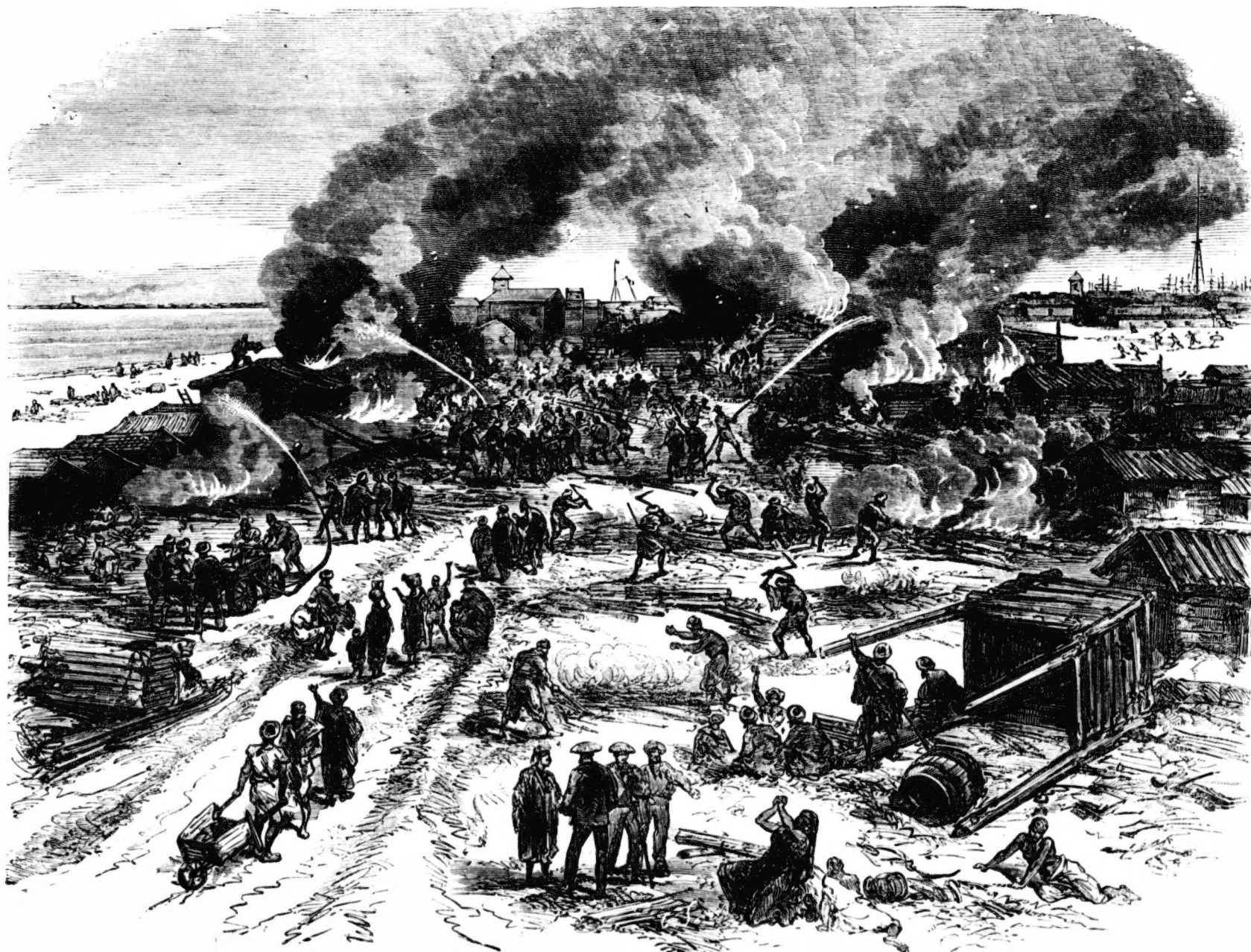
had been accumulated in this quarter; and it may be easily imagined that when a fire once broke out there, the whole collection of huts and shanties would speedily be destroyed. The origin of the fire has not at present been discovered; but none of those who know the place are surprised at the event, for in that dry climate the walls and posts, as well as the thin partitions of those structures, were like matches; and, when the flames once spread, even the streams of water poured on to them from the hose-pipes, which were soon brought to bear, had very little effect; so that, in order to stop the progress of the conflagration, several of the houses had to be pulled down, while others of a more portable character were carried away bodily.

Of course the scene was one of extraordinary excitement, especially among the Arabs, many of whom, after the fire had burnt out, came to seek for their little savings, the accumulations of long, laborious days, and painful economies. Those who had lost these hard-earned sums exhibited at first the most extravagant sorrow, but the usual resignation to inevitable fate soon succeeded those outbursts, and by the time a temporary camp of tents and huts had been formed on the shore they had become tolerably reconciled. The new quarter thus established soon assumed a comfortable appearance, and while the younger men collected the salvage from the fire, the women busied themselves in preparing the usual meals, and the chiefs of each family

preserved their traditional character by sitting down and smoking in silence. Everyone employed on the spot exhibited the utmost anxiety to give all possible aid in mitigating the effects of the calamity. Measures were at once taken to provide for the support of the families who had been reduced to such distress, and it may be hoped that some permanent relief will be afforded them.

A FEARFUL SCENE.

THE American papers record the death by drowning of four children at Auburn, Maine. Mrs. H. G. Turner and Mrs. John Turner, of Charleston, Massachusetts, each with two children, were spending some time at Auburn, Mrs. H. G. Turner residing with a Mrs. Libby, near the eastern shore of Lake Auburn. On the shore of the lake was an old flat-bottomed boat, perhaps 10 ft. long by 5 ft. wide—a leaky, treacherous craft, whose sides above water had been shrunk in the sun, so that when the boat was loaded it was more leaky even than at other times. Mrs. Isaac Libby had three sons—Eugene, aged 18; Julius, aged 15; and Cecil, aged 13. Mrs. H. G. Turner's daughter Flora was 16 years of age, and her son Charles 14. The young people had been accustomed to get into the old flat boat and paddle about the pond for fish or for pleasure. On the 21st ult. a party of five of them made such a trip across an arm of the lake. In the afternoon six of them



ALARMING FIRE AT PORT SAID.

made a similar trip, caught some perch and cooked them on the shore, and after dinner the company, consisting of six—Eugene, Julius, Cecil, Charles, and Flora, above named, and Mr. J. Turner's daughter Addie, aged seventeen—got into the boat to return. As they stepped on board Flora noticed that there was considerable water in the boat, and said to Eugene, who was sitting in it on an old bucket, that they had better bale the boat, but he thought it unnecessary. Charles says there was perhaps two inches of water in the boat then. Eugene and Julius took the oars and paddled the old hulk slowly through the water. The fact that the water was treacherously running in at the cracks in the boat's sides did not seem to attract their notice, or, if it did, not sufficiently to alarm them. The boat had slowly moved towards the homeward landing, and only about 50 ft. intervened between them and the land when, without a moment's warning, the boat sank beneath them, going down, not one end foremost, but sinking horizontally. Its hapless occupants all went down to the bottom with it. Charles, Eugene, and Julius could swim. Addie and Cecil shrieked with terror as the boat filled and sank. Flora was speechless. They had not even time to jump from the boat, and locked in each other's arms went down together. The boat slipped from under them and rose at another point and floated off, its sides just visible on the surface. As the unfortunate victims rose to the surface there was nothing for them to grasp but one another. The boat was out of their reach; one or two old paddles and bits of boards did not avail to aid them. Addie caught hold of Flora; Charles, who could swim, caught Flora, and, finding they were sinking, pushed Addie off, hoping to save himself and his sister; but Flora grasped him round the neck and disabled him from swimming, and both sank instantly to the bottom. Charles states that, finding unless he released himself from her grasp both must die, he resolved he must leave her to perish, and try to save himself; but he adds, his heart breaking with grief, "I had a regular battle with her to escape." But at last he wrenched himself from her death-grasp, and rose to the surface, almost exhausted. The distance to shore was but slight, and he was just able to swim a few feet, far enough to touch the bottom, and was helped ashore by a boy who happened to be near. When Charles pushed Addie from Flora's grasp, Eugene took her and tried to save her, but she clung to him in such a way that he was unable to swim with her, and both sank to the bottom; so, to save his own life, he was forced to release himself from her grasp. As the girls rose the second time Addie and Cecil grasped Julius and bore him down, and no doubt they perished in each other's embrace. Just as Charles got ashore, he turned round to see what could be done, and saw Eugene swimming just behind him, almost exhausted, crying, "Help! I'm sinking." The boy on the shore, Pliny Caswell, who had now come to the rescue, got a long pole, and extended it to Eugene, who had strength enough left to grasp it, and was drawn, half-conscious, to the shore, where, after a short time, he was restored so that he was able to walk. Just as Eugene cried for help, Charles, who had reached the shore, looking farther in the rear of Eugene, saw Flora's hair floating on the surface, and part of her dress; but he saw them only for a moment, and then all was gone. One of Mrs. Libby's sons was studying at the Maine State Seminary, preparing for college. Both of them, together with Eugene, who was saved, were to have been baptised and admitted to the Free Baptist Church (the Rev. Mr. Heath's) the following Sunday. The bodies were found near the place where they went down in about an hour and a half after the accident.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT ON THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY.

THE dread of combustion, added to the ordinary perils of the rail, has of late years been alarmingly increased. The Abergele accident was at the time considered to be not only a new but an entirely exceptional disaster, not likely to be repeated. Something very similar has, however, happened more than once, in America and in this country; and a collision which occurred late on Monday night on the Great Northern Railway, between Barnet and Southgate, is terribly suggestive of the future frequency on railways of that double peril which has a dreadful resemblance to fire at sea. Conflicting reports of the casualty have got abroad; and, in correction of the rumours which agree only in being equally wrong, we give the statement as it has been supplied by Mr. Oakeley, the secretary. The 11 p.m. train from London to Barnet arrived at its destination at 11.30, and safely unloaded its passengers; and, in the ordinary course, would have returned empty to Southgate, the next station nearest London. Here it usually remains all night, proceeding to London the first thing on the following morning, with passengers. It consisted on this occasion of six or eight carriages—first, second, and third; two guards' or brake vans, one in the front and the other in the rear; and the engine and tender. The engine had been detached from the front of the train, and had passed from the down to the up line, from which at some distance it had again returned to the down line, and so reached the tail end of the train, to which it was again attached. The brake-van at the tail end was that in which the gas for the supply of light to the several carriages was stored. It was contained in a reservoir which occupied about two thirds of the space in the carriage. All being now ready for the train to proceed from the down to the up line by a link which runs diagonally across the six-foot way, the order was given for the train to start. The signal-man is stationed in a signal-house, which is elevated above the buildings of the station at Barnet, and is closely contiguous thereto. It is surmounted by the ordinary telegraphic apparatus, and has a communication with the Whetstone signal-station between Barnet and Colney Hatch, and about a mile nearer to King's-cross than Barnet. As soon as the signal-man had advised the guard of the train to proceed, he likewise advised the signal-man at Whetstone that the down road was clear; in the one case by calling out "Right away!" and in the other by dropping the telegraph arm. The guard thereupon called from his van to the driver, "Go ahead, Harry!" and the driver accordingly sounded his whistle and put the train in motion. Neither driver nor guard appears to have noticed that there was no one attending to the points through which it was necessary to pass in order to leave the one road and reach the other. The points not being turned, the train of course ran back on the same line towards London. The signal-man saw the mistake, and shouted at the top of his voice with a view to rectifying the error. Whether or not he was heard or his gesticulations perceived is not as yet known. It has not yet been learnt whether any attempt was made by reversing the engine or putting on the brakes to stop the train. It was running at a good speed, and had got over a distance of 400 yards or so, when approaching lights were perceived. These were attached to a goods-train, which had been waiting at Whetstone during the operation of shunting at Barnet. One of the purposes, if not the main purpose, of the Whetstone signal-station is to detain the trains there in the event of there being an obstruction at Barnet. When the signal-man, therefore, received the signal from Barnet that the down line was clear, he permitted the goods-train, which was very heavily laden with general merchandise, to proceed. The engine-driver and stoker of the goods-train, seeing what must inevitably happen, leaped from the engine, and the next moment the collision took place. At what rate the goods-train was travelling may be judged by the circumstance of its having run nearly a mile when the shock took place. The effect of the collision was to crush up the guard's van, in which there was a storage of gas. The reservoir was fractured; the gas escaped in a volume, came into contact with the blaze which rushed out of the open fire-hole of the engine, and ignition was the instant effect. The guard's van and two passenger-carriages immediately in its rear, having been torn and crushed to splinters, caught fire, and, before assistance could be rendered, were literally consumed. The charred remains of the guard who had occupied the van were picked up hardly, if at all, recognisable, out of the dying embers, and conveyed to Barnet. The driver of the passenger-train had his leg broken in the upper part of the thigh; the fireman was severely hurt on the head. Both were conveyed with all possible speed to London, and placed

under medical care at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's-inn-road, where they now lie. Their injuries, although of a very serious nature, are not supposed to be fatal, although in the case of the driver it is not improbable that he will be crippled for life. The driver and fireman of the goods-train, as already stated, jumped from their engine, abandoning their post rather than risk their lives; and, fortunately, in their case the injuries sustained are not of such a character as to give cause for apprehension. Immediately on receipt of the intelligence at King's-cross measures were taken for the clearance of the line; and, except in the case of an early workman's train, there was no suspension of traffic.

THE INQUEST.

On Tuesday evening Mr. Lowe, Coroner, opened an inquiry, at the Railway Hotel, East Barnet, on the body of Arthur South, the guard. Mr. Wontner, solicitor, appeared for the Great Northern Railway Company. After the jury had been to view the body of the deceased, who was very much charred, so much so that he could not be recognised.

Dr. John Livingston stated that he was called, on Tuesday morning, between four and five o'clock, to see the body of the deceased. The body was lying on the same box, above the buffers on an engine. The body was very much charred. It was all smashed together, the limbs being off the body, which was headless. The bones of the legs were broken in pieces, but whether the result of the fractures or the burning he could not say, owing to the body being so charred. He could not say the cause of death.

William Cannon, the station-master at Barnet, stated that there was a down train corresponding to the one to which the accident occurred every weekday night. It started from King's-cross at eleven, and arrived at Barnet at 11.30. When the passengers had alighted, the train returned to Southgate, where it remained until the morning, and it would go back on the up line. It passed from the down line to the up line by a pair of crossing points on the London side of the Barnet station. The engine must pass the Barnet station by another line, from the front to the rear of the train. It crosses the points and is attached to the rear of the train, and then takes the whole of the train over the crossing points to the up line. The points were in charge of a pointsman, who was on duty from nine a.m. till twelve at night. It was also the duty of this man to go to the engine, attach it to the trains, and hold the points over until the train had passed over. There was also a luggage-train that leaves King's-cross at 11.5 and passes Barnet at about 11.45. Witness was in bed at the time of the accident, but was called up, and he immediately went to the scene of the accident, which was nearly half a mile from the Barnet station towards London. One of the carriages of this passenger-train was on fire, and an engine which belonged to the luggage-train. Some of the luggage-trucks were also off the rails. The body of the deceased was lying on the sand-box above the buffers on the engines. He could not recognise the deceased, as the body was very much charred. The driver of the luggage-train was Henry Murphell, and the fireman John Castledine. In the passenger-trains gas was kept in the guard's break, in a travelling holder which was made of indiarubber. When he arrived at the scene of the accident several passenger-carriages were on fire, which caused the gas to explode. The lights in the carriages were not put out till the train arrived at Southgate. The station-master, in answer to Mr. Wontner, said the guard was placed next the engine, and it was his duty to see that the points were in safe condition before he told the engine-driver to move on. The guard was in charge of the train, and ought to see that the pointsman did his duty. He did not know if the white or the red lights were at the back of the passenger-train. The guard changed his position when the engine was detached from the trains.

Dr. Livingston was recalled, and stated that he was the first person who was at the scene of the accident. Although he was there from a quarter to twelve till past four he could not see the deceased. The heat from the burning of the carriages was quite unbearable.

A discussion ensued between the jury, the Coroner, and a person who evidently belonged to the railway company, as to what the duties of the officers were.

William Campion, porter at the Barnet station, said that he was on duty when the accident occurred. He saw the deceased in the brake as he was going towards Southgate, and said "Good-night, guard!" When he said that he was on the steps on the platform. As the engine was moving, the deceased said to the engine-driver, "Harry, make haste home." The guard could not see the points from where he was standing when the train moved off, but he could see them if he went to the opposite window.

Francis Martin, signal-man at Barnet station: The passenger-train arrived on Monday at 11.30. He saw the engine go round. The porter gave the signal, and the engine was put to the hind part of the passenger-train. The tender was in front. The driver asked witness for the signal, and said, "Right away?" and he said, "Yes, when they are ready," meaning when the engine was coupled to the back of the train. When he received the signal from Whetstone, he told the porter that the down line was clear. The goods-train was standing at Whetstone when he gave the signal to the porter "All right," and he supposed that the passenger-train was on the right line. He told the porter that a train was coming from Whetstone before he said "All right." He tells the driver of the engine that all is right, but he ought not to go away till the porter has shifted the points. The rule is for the guards to get into the brakes before they start, and then they have the order to go on; and it is the duty of the driver to look down at the points to see all right before starting. The driver of this train was always a very particular man about starting.

At this stage of the proceedings the inquiry was adjourned for a week.

THE BISHOP OF LICHFIELD held confirmation services at Glossop and Hayfield on Sunday, and was intending to proceed to London the same evening per Midland express train, to attend his brother's funeral on the following day, but was taken so ill that he was obliged to remain in the neighbourhood all night. A telegram was dispatched on Monday morning to request the attendance of Mrs. Selwyn. The nature of his Lordship's illness has not transpired.

ATTEMPTED MURDER AT ALDERSHOTT.—An attempt was made at a late hour on Sunday night at the camp at Aldershot to commit a military murder. Between nine and ten o'clock on Sunday night, about the time that "tattoo" usually sounds, a private soldier of the first battalion 12th (East Suffolk) Regiment, named Thomas Neal, of B company, came into his hut in the lines where the battalion is quartered. He then questioned some men in the room as to whether Sergeant Griffin, the colour and pay-sergeant of the company to which he belonged, had lately been in the barrack-room, and was answered that he had not. Immediately after this, Private Neal went towards the part of the room where his arms and accoutrements were placed, which is usually at the back of the bed on which a man sleeps. Corporal John Greenan, who was in the room at the time, noticed Neal handling his rifle in rather a suspicious manner and heard a "click." This roused the corporal's suspicions, and he determined to closely watch the movements of Neal. After a short time Sergeant Griffin entered the hut, and was going towards the centre of the room, when Neal, who had lain down on his bed, without undressing himself, rose and took his rifle from the arm-rack, where he had placed it. He was in the act of raising it and pointing it at Sergeant Griffin, when Corporal Greenan and some other men seized him and the rifle before he had time to fire. No sooner was he laid hold of than he struggled desperately to release himself from the grasp of his captors, which he succeeded in doing after his rifle had been wrenched from him. He then ran to another part of the room, and seized another man's breech-loader, opened the breech, took a ball cartridge out of his trousers pocket, loaded the rifle, and made another attempt to shoot Sergeant Griffin, but before he had time to fire he was again seized by some men and safely secured. An examination of both rifles was made, when they were found to be loaded with ball cartridge. The pouch in which Neal kept his ammunition was next examined, and on the cartridges being counted two were found to be deficient, which no doubt were those with which he had loaded the rifles. Neal was at once taken under escort to the regimental guard-room and placed in close confinement. He is a soldier of about four years' service, and is said to have been up to the present time a man of good character. The only cause given for his having attempted to shoot Sergeant Griffin is that he tried to get promoted, but was led to believe that Sergeant Griffin would not recommend him to his officer. It is very evident that Sergeant Griffin owes his life to the vigilance of Corporal Greenan.

MORE BREACH-OF-PROMISE CASES.

SPEIGHT V. HEWITT.

In this case, which was tried before Mr. Justice Hayes, at Liverpool, last Saturday, the plaintiff, Jane Speight, thirty-four years of age, the daughter of Mr. Peter Speight, a brush manufacturer at Lancaster, sought to recover damages for breach of promise of marriage from Mr. Laurence Hewitt, who holds the position of postmaster in that town.

The case, with the consent of both parties, was tried by five jurymen, there being only that number in court when the case was called on. Another peculiarity of the trial was that, under the new Act, the plaintiff herself gave evidence.

From the statement of Mr. Torr, who appeared for the plaintiff, it appeared that about three years ago the defendant was left a widower with three children. He and the plaintiff's family were next-door neighbours, and the intimacy which naturally existed between them in time induced the defendant to declare himself as the plaintiff's lover. In the year 1866, when the defendant became very marked in his attentions to plaintiff, she went on a visit to some of her friends who resided near Windermere Lake. While she was there Mr. Hewitt went to see her, and he also wrote her a number of love-letters. In one of these letters he addressed her as "My dear Miss Speight;" he said also that he had been looking forward with very great pleasure to his next visit to her, but he was afraid he would not be able to stay all night. He should not, however, have hesitated for a moment, and he would pray for a fine day. Another of the defendant's letters was couched in the following laconic terms:—

Miss Jane Speight,
All's right.—L.H.

In a longer communication Mr. Hewitt said—"Yesterday I went to church, and had the turtle doves before me. In the afternoon I had tea with Nancy and her father" (the sister and father of the plaintiff). Subsequently the defendant wrote to the plaintiff, expressing the hope that, when he called to see her, he would find her quite well, and prepared for a good ramble. The jury would, no doubt, know, said the learned counsel, what a good ramble would mean in the Lake district. During that ramble, or at all events, immediately afterwards, the defendant proposed to the plaintiff, and on being subsequently asked by her what he really meant, he wrote to her as follows:—"My dearest Jane,—I was indeed glad to hear that you had arrived all safe among so many friends. It would, I am sure, be a great pleasure to you to meet those which you did not expect. Well, I do hope and pray that you will thoroughly enjoy yourself. And now for the revelation I made to you on Thursday. I was really in earnest, and what I meant was this—Can you give me any hope of being my wife? Oh, could you have looked in my face when at the boat-house you would then, I am sure, have no longer doubted my sincerity; and I now beg your acceptance of the accompanying ring as a token of that sincerity, for your engaged finger. Your answer to this is impatiently expected." Subsequently the defendant addressed her as "his own dear Jane," and signed himself, "your very, very own and affectionate, Laurence." In that epistle, he asked her to accept a little present, which was one he prized very much, and, "with God's blessing, may you be spared very many years to wear it." A short time afterwards the defendant was confined to his house with a cold, and acknowledged in one of his letters having taken a mixture which the plaintiff had sent him. The learned counsel was afraid he had not taken sufficient to make him thoroughly well. In the next letter the defendant wrote as follows:—"Here I am, still behind the door, as usual, though somewhat better, and as it appears a fine sort of a day, I had a consultation with the table and sofa—whether I should go out for a time or not. However, we could not agree upon the subject, so it ended in a toss-up for it; 'heads,' I went to the garden; 'tails,' I walked up the groves. 'Heads' won, so I walked to the garden and round by the station. I was fearfully done up when I got back." The defendant, it appears, had taken offence at the plaintiff's father, partly on account of his taking too much beer and partly on account of his (defendant) having been turned out of the house. It was alleged that he had also taken some dislike to the plaintiff's sister, whom he was in the habit of calling "Miss Fidgets." It was alleged that these two causes had greatly influenced the defendant in breaking off the marriage. At one period of the courtship, however, the breach between the defendant and the plaintiff's father had been temporarily healed, for he wrote on one occasion to his then lady-love, "Peter has turned over a fresh leaf." As a proof of the anxiety with which the defendant guarded the interests of the plaintiff, a letter which he wrote on her contemplating leaving Liverpool on a visit to her home was read by the learned counsel, from which we take the following sentence:—"I have not seen them next door. I told Lane to put a hot bottle in your bed; but I think Peter was going to have it down under his bed." This, said the learned counsel, showed how fearful he was lest his sweetheart should sleep in a damp bed. Subsequently the defendant's ardour cooled, and he drooped from those high sentimental, romantic, loving, and endearing passages, to a more prosaic and matter-of-fact style of addressing his lady-love. He had not visited her while in Liverpool, and, as he had not called to see her, after a week had elapsed after her return to Lancaster, she wrote to him, saying that he did not know how very much hurt she felt at his conduct in not coming to see her. She was quite sure it was not in his heart to act thus without some cause or other; and, as she was ignorant of what it could be, she asked him, as a man of honour and a gentleman, to tell her, for she could not bear to go on from day to day as she was. She added, "You must in some measure know what a woman's feelings are, and to be treated in this unaccountable way, and by one who has caused me to love him, is more than I can bear." She signed herself, "Ever your affectionate Jane." No reply was sent to this letter; and the plaintiff's father, having taken the matter into his own hands, consulted an attorney, who subsequently issued a writ.

The plaintiff, a plain-looking, well-dressed woman, was then called into the witness-box, and told her story, which substantially corroborated the facts above related. She added that while living with her father she received £10 per annum for acting as his assistant; but when the match was broken off she was compelled to leave her native town on account of the gossip. She was now employed in a Liverpool shop, in which situation she got £20 a year. On account of disappointment and anxiety her health had suffered a good deal. On being cross-examined, she stated that she was not aware of the defendant having at times to be propped up in bed. She had never seen him under such circumstances.

Defendant's counsel, Mr. Pope, Q.C., admitted the breach of promise, but addressed the Court in mitigation of the damages, remarking that though aspiring to be the wife of the Lancaster postmaster, she would have had to become his nurse.

The defendant was not called, though he was in court. The jury awarded the plaintiff £200 damages.

FLEMING V. THOMPSON.

An action for breach of promise of marriage, which produced more than ordinary merriment in court, commenced before Mr. Justice Hayes, at Liverpool, on Wednesday, and was concluded on Thursday. The plaintiff was Kate Fleming, a young lady residing near Dublin, and the defendant James Elliott Thompson, a ship-builder at Sunderland. A choice selection from 111 letters was read by Mr. Manisty, the counsel for the plaintiff. On March 13 the defendant wrote to say that he had tried to console himself with a cigar, but it was a most miserable attempt. Later he wrote in the following terms:—"Carley, Sunday Afternoon.—My own darling Kate,—I have got one carte cast off for you which I shall enclose. I think it flatters the individual very much, and of course I am much pleased with it. I cannot help smiling when I think of the reason why you must have rejected the others. Shall I tell you what that reason was? I have a good mind. Well, here goes. Did ever any person see such understandings as those? I am sure

C. BLACKBURN, C. BEDFORD, Old Ford-road, shoemaker—**C.** BLANKETBY, St. Albans, straw-hat manufacturer—**J.** CRAMEL, Little Green-lane, Post-office-street, cooper—**H. DAVENPORT**, Baker's Hall—**J. H. BROWN**, Bishopsgate-Without, baker—**G.** DOUGHTON, South Norwood, boot and shoe maker—**W. GOODE**, Dalston, baker—**T. T. GREEN**, Twickenham, surveyor—**L. E. HALPHIDE**, Brompton-road, **J. HARRIS**, South Lambeth, bookseller—**E. H. H. HAYES**, Chelsea, painter—**F. HULL**, Brentford, contractor—**J. J. HAWKINS**, Watford, carpenter—**S. HILL**, Shorelitch, cabinet-maker—**C. KEEN**, Camber Street, grocer—**R. KNILL**, Hackney, plasterer—**K. LINTHORN**, Lynton, shipwright—**A. LITTLE**, Tottenham, cooper—**C. RICHMOND** and **NATIEL**, North-Lark, PEPIATT, Great Brickhill, baker—**W. O. PEARL**, Long Ditton, builder—**S. S. KUMFORT**, Maddox-street, tailor—**G. SCALLES**, Sittingbourne, brickmaker—**V. STANDEN**, Victoria Dock, greengrocer—**F. STEVENSON**, Chelsea, milliner—**P. THOMAS**, Richmond—**WOODHAM'S**, Burdett-road, builder—**R. B. WRIGHT**, First-street, writer for the press—**D. AMES**, Ruxton, colliery-manager—**W. APPLEBY**, Burton-on-Trent, bookseller—**J. W. B. BAILEY**, Gt. Bentley, coal merchant—**G. F. BATCHELOR**, London—**B. BLACKBURN**, Highgate, coal merchant—**J. B. BLACKBURN**, Blackburn, Highgate, Yorkshire, stonemason—**H. BIRD**, Birmingham—**J. BRIMLEY**, Whitwell, engine-tender—**J. BRITTON**, York, butcher—**T. BROWN**, Manchester, hosiery—**S. BUTLER**, Tottenham, potter—**J. T. CHURCH**, Elm-street, ironmonger—**BUTTS**, Hull, fisherman—**D. CROSTHWAITE**, Liverpool, stockbroker—**J. DAVENPORT**, Ardwick, fruiterer—**T. DYER**, St. Austell, grocer—**E. H. DAWSON**, Sunderland, shipowner—**J. ESHELBY**, Sheffield, builder—**J. FARLEY**, Eastington, grocer—**J. FLEMING**, Micklefield, brewer—**J. SOLAN**, Cardiff, innkeeper—**W. GRAY**, Barnack, labourer—**E. HANCOCK**, Talk-o'-the-Hill, house-painter—**P. J. HEWITT** and **H. RODWELL**, Dewsbury, boot and shoe makers—**G. HILKEY**, sen., Nottingham—**M. HUDSON**, Barkston, Ala., Yorkshire, ironmonger—**W. HUNTER**, Birmingham, printers—**A. IVES**, Great Missenden, chair turner—**L. P. L. JONES**, Corwen, surgeon's clerk—**K. LES**, Toxteth-parish, blacksmith—**L. LIPTROT**, Everton, licensed victualler—**J. MACDONALD**, Plymouth—**W. H. NORTON**, Devonport, china-clay nucliant—**R. OSBOENE**, Darlaston, grocer—**J. M. PAINE**, Speldhurst, nurseryman—**H. PARRY**, Langfen, carrier—**J. PUGT**, Mountain Ash, telegraph messenger—**J. H. RANBY**, Birmingham—**R. BALMORN**, Wolverhampton, marine store dealer—**W. SIMMONDS**, Worcester, beer-drer—**W. S. OTT**, Manchester, floorcloth manufacturer—**G. TAYLOR**, Hull, joiner—**J. THOMAS**, Tyfri, Penryn, cattle-dealer—**C. THOMAS**, Birmingham, ironmonger—**THOMAS**, Birmingham, ironmonger—**VAILETT**, New Ferry, lively-table keeper—**E. WAGSTAFF**, Warrington, rope manufacturer—**J. WALKER**, Kidderminster, rug-weaver—**J. WARD**, Great Berkhamstead, wooden-ware manufacturer—**F. W. AID**, Torquay, boot and shoe maker—**W. WATSON**, St. Albans, ironmonger—**WHITTY**, junr., Falls-worth, baker—**G. W. WOOLF**, Alden, Birmingham, blind-maker.

London: Printed and Published at the Office, 2, Catherine-street,
in the Parish of St. Mary-le-Strand, in the County of Middlesex,
by THOMAS FOX, 2, Catherine-street, Strand, aforesaid.—
SATURDAY, AUGUST 21, 1869.